

Government have offered to supply surplus food stocks to the scarcity areas of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal,

(b) if so, the quantity thereof and whether the Centre has agreed and asked the Punjab Government to do so, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b) Punjab Government have promised to supply 6 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to deficit States during the current year and when quantities of different foodgrains become actually available and are offered for immediate export, allocations are issued. Allocations made so far to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal are as follows

(Figures in tonnes)

	Bihar	Himachal Pradesh	West Bengal
Rice (whole)		3,000	9,200
Broken rice	1,100		10,000
Wheat		10,000	20,000
Barley	10,000		2,500
Gram & Gram dhal	100	25	1,050

(c) Does not arise

Monthly Quota of Foodgrains for U P

*1076 Shri Yashpal Singh ·
Shri Marandi ·
Shri Sarjoo Pandey :

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the Food Minister of Uttar Pradesh has met him for an increase in its monthly quota of imported grain from 120,000 tonnes at present to 200,000 tonnes, and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken on the request?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The Food Minister of Uttar Pradesh did meet the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture and asked for an increase in the monthly quota of imported foodgrains

(b) Some increase in the quota originally allotted for July is being made

Diversion of Food Carrying Ships

*1077 Shri Kameshwar Singh ·
Shri Sequeira ·
Shri D C Sharma :

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have requested the supplying countries to divert to India from other buyers, food-carrying ships on the high seas to bridge the supply gap arising out of the West Asia situation, and

(b) the names of the countries to whom such requests were made with the date of each request and their reaction thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b) A request was made to Australia on the 9th June, 1967 for diversion to India of two wheat ships on the high seas and two ships which were loading wheat for other destinations. The Government were subsequently informed that the proposed diversions were not possible

Artificial Rain Making

*1078. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha · Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the experiments conducted by the National Physical Laboratory in artificial rain making have shown "encouraging results",

(b) if so, the results achieved,