

(b) if so, the facilities being given to the farmers to divert them from cash crops and put their lands under food production?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) A statement showing the area under Jute, tobacco and cotton for the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 is attached. This does not show diversion of land to cash crops

like jute and tobacco. This is borne out by subsequent trends also.

(b) Agriculture has to be viewed as a whole to meet the needs of the country in respect of commercial crops as well as food crops. With the new approach linked with multiple cropping there is less possibility of one crop being diverted at the expense of the other. Every effort is being made to popularise cash crops within a rotation with food crops.

STATEMENT

Area under Commercial crops

(Area in ,000 hectares)

Crops	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
Cotton	7,978	7,845	8,160	8,271	7,827
Jute	917	851	868	839	748
Tobacco	418	416	44	394	345

Reduction in Food Ration

*464. Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri S. N. Maiti:

Shri A. K. Kishn:

Shri Tridib Kumar

Chaudhuri:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Bhogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the reduction in the quantum of food ration, people have to supplement it by purchases in the black-market at higher rates;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to ensure that foodstuffs are sold at the controlled rates only; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to take up State trading in the foodgrains?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). In statutorily rationed areas rationed foodgrains are available only under rationing at prescribed rates. Non-rationed foodgrains are available in

the open market. The purchases of these foodgrains if necessary can be made from the open market.

(c) The Government have already undertaken partial State trading in foodgrains. Total monopoly of the State in foodgrains trade is not contemplated at present.

Statistics about Food Production

*465. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that estimates of the statistics on food production made by the different State Governments and the Centre vary from each other widely; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to improve the reliability of food statistics in the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Under the existing system of crop estimation the official all-India Final Estimates of production of foodgrains are ar-