

Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Wheat quota for Assam

*617. **Shri Dhireswar Kalita:**
Shri R. Barua:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the reduction of wheat quota to the Assam State, the large number of wheat eaters in that State are facing a great crisis;

(b) whether Government are also aware that as a result of this, flour mills, confectioneries and bakeries are practically lying idle and employees in these concerns are laid off without pay and work; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the wheat quota to the Assam State?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) and (b). People in Assam are predominantly rice eaters. Government are, however, aware that the wheat eaters—their number must be small—may be experiencing some difficulties. The flour mills, confectioneries and bakeries might also be facing some difficulties.

(c) Quota of wheat for Assam has been increased from 5,500 tonnes in April to 10,000 tonnes in May. For June also, the State has been allotted 10,000 tonnes of wheat.

Casting of Votes in General Elections

*618. **Shri T. Ram:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that voters of weaker sections of the community were either not allowed to cast their votes or their votes were cast by others in the last General Elections;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a large number of minors as

also the names of the dead had been included in the Electoral Rolls;

(c) whether it is a fact that at some places organised minority parties by means of intimidation tactics did not allow the elections to be held in fair and impartial manner; and

(d) if the replies to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, the steps taken to ensure free and fair elections in future?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri D. E. Chavan): (a) It is presumed that the hon. Member in referring to 'weaker sections of community' is referring to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes. It is not correct to say that voters belonging to these communities were either not allowed to cast their votes or their votes were cast by others in the last General Elections. Only three complaints, one from Uttar Pradesh and the other two from Bihar were received in the Election Commission that some Harijan voters were prevented from exercising their franchise by rowdy elements.

(b) Yes, Sir; but such number is negligible.

(c) Government has no information on this point.

(d) The provisions in the election law and rules made thereunder are considered quite adequate for the conduct of free and fair elections. Wide publicity is given both at the time of preparing/revising the rolls and when the rolls are ready and published in draft. Claims for inclusion of names in the draft rolls, in the case of omissions and objections to any entry already therein, are invited from the public soon after the rolls are published in draft and all such claims/objections received within a period of 30 days are enquired into and remedial action taken. Further two copies of the electoral rolls are supplied free to every political party for which an election symbol has been reserved in the State, to enable the parties to suggest therein additions and deletions, if any.