

wheat supplied to the different States at uniform rates; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) The Central Government is subsidizing the sale of imported wheat and coarse rice to the State Governments from its stocks. The rate of subsidy is uniform in the case of imported wheat as its issue price has been fixed uniformly for all the States. It is not uniform for the coarse rice.

(b) The issue price of coarse rice has been fixed at the level of ex-mill procurement prices maximum controlled prices or cost of rice produced out of the locally procured paddy, prevailing in a State, depending upon the existence of one system or the other in a particular state.

#### Allocation of Foodgrains to West Bengal

\*623. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:  
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
 Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:  
 Shri Bhagaban Das:  
 Shri K. Haldar:  
 Shri Ganesh Ghosh:  
 Dr. Ranen Sen:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri Tridib Kumar  
 Chandhuri:  
 Shri Deven Sen:  
 Shri Samar Guha:  
 Shri Chittaranjan Roy:  
 Shri B. K. Daschowdhury:  
 Shri P. B. Thakur:

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

(a) whether the monthly allocations of rice and wheat asked for by the West Bengal Government have been reaching that State, month by month, since March, 1967;

(b) whether, subsequent to the allocations being made, near-famine

conditions have developed in the drought-affected Districts like Bankura, Purulia etc., and

(c) if so, whether some additional allocations will be made to meet this emergency situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) At a meeting with the Chief Minister, Food Minister and Finance Minister of West Bengal, held towards the end of March, 1967, it was agreed that West Bengal would be supplied 5,000 tonnes of rice and 75,000 tonnes of wheat per month up to June, 1967. Actual supplies of rice averaged over 15,000 tonnes. The supply of wheat, however, was lower than the allotted quota of 75,000 tonnes during April and May.

(b) The Districts of Purulia and Bankura have been affected by drought and scarcity conditions have developed there. It is not, however, possible to determine any exact date from which the scarcity conditions started.

(c) West Bengal Government have been allotted 5,000 tonnes of milk during June for distribution in the drought affected areas.

#### Closure of sugar factories in Bihar

\*624. Shri Kameshwar Singh:  
 Shri A. Sreedharan:  
 Shri K. M. Madhukar:  
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
 Shri Raghuvir Singh Shastri:  
 Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:  
 Shri Mohan Prasad:  
 Shri Arjun Singh Bhaderia:  
 Shri Laxman Lal Kapoor:  
 Shri S. Kundra:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 9 sugar factories in Bihar are on the verge of closure due to the inadequate cane supplies;