

(b) whether it is also a fact that the management of these sugar factories have sought the permission to shift their factories to South India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation, keeping in view the drastic cut in the sugar quota of Bihar by the Union Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasabeh Shinde): (a) According to the information received from the Government of Bihar, nine factories in Bihar may not be able to work during the next crushing season for want of cane.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Measures to augment supplies of sugarcane to mills during 1967-68 season are under consideration.

Purchase of wheat in U.S. Market

*625. **Shri Samar Guha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the U.S. Government have permitted the Central Government to buy 400,000 tonnes of wheat in the U.S. market;

(b) whether this quantity is included in the anticipated agreement for 1.5 million tonnes for which negotiations are reported to have succeeded;

(c) the manner in which Government have planned for buying, transportation and distribution of this quantity of wheat to the deficit States; and

(d) when Government expect the buying and arrival of this quantum of wheat to be completed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasabeh Shinde): (a) and (b).

Pending finalization of a new PL-480 agreement, the U.S. Government have permitted, on a specific request from the Government of India, purchase of about 600 thousand tonnes of foodgrains (480 thousand tonnes wheat and 120 thousand tonnes milo) through the issue of reimbursable purchase authorisations. This quantity will form part of the supply under the proposed new agreement for 1.5 million tonnes of foodgrains.

(c) This quantity is being purchased in the usual manner by the India Supply Mission, Washington. Shipping will also be arranged, as usual, by the India Supply Mission, Washington and the Chief Controller of Chartering, New Delhi. The quantity will go into the general pool of foodgrain supplies available to the Government of India from imports and internal procurement and will be issued to the State Governments and other consumers in accordance with the allocation made from the general pool. It is not, therefore, possible to indicate the State-wise allocation of this particular quantity.

(d) The entire quantity of 6 lakh tonnes is expected to be purchased before the end of June, shipped before the end of July, 1967 and expected to be received in India completely by about the middle of September, 1967.

Sugar Industry in U.P.

*626. **Shrimati Sushila Rohtagi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the Sugar industry, the main industry of U.P. is shifting to the South;

(b) whether the research carried out at the Kanpur Sugar Institute reveals that U.P. Soil is good for sugarcane production;

(c) whether it also shows that if given adequate supply of water, the sugarcane production compares favourably with the South in its sugar content and yield per acre; and