

(d) the steps which have been taken to encourage a greater acreage of cultivation of sugarcane?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Yes, excepting tea.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1179/67].

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

(d) The following measures have been taken to encourage greater cultivation of sugarcane:—

(i) Augmentation of minor irrigation facilities in sugarcane growing areas;

(ii) Fixation of higher price for cane;

(iii) Allotment of special quota of fertilisers for sugarcane crop; etc.

Self Sufficiency in Foodgrains

*1376. Shri Parthasarathy:
Shri Sri Chand Goel:
Shri S. S. Kothari:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government after the recent Chief Ministers' Conference is confident of fixing 1970-71 as the year of attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains with a production target of 120 millions;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for each State; and

(c) whether Government propose to achieve self-sufficiency in regard to cotton by 1970-71 and stop imports of cotton thereafter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community

Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) The Government of India had already decided to achieve by 1970-71 a level of 120 million tonnes of foodgrains production where it would match the country's requirements. The Chief Ministers' Conference indicated its general support to the programme for self-sufficiency by 1970-71 and the production programmes for 1967-68 were drawn up in this context.

(b) The detailed State-wise targets of production of foodgrains were not considered at the Conference. Final State-wise targets of foodgrains production will be known when the Report of the Fourth Five Year Plan is finalised.

(c) No, Sir. But at the Chief Ministers' Conference, several Chief Ministers expressed the view that it would be desirable to aim at achieving self-sufficiency in cotton by 1970-71 and to stop imports of cotton thereafter. These suggestions will be examined by the Govt.

Polygamy

*1377. Shri Mahdu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri George Fernandes:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Joshi:
Shri Baburao Patel:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Muslim organisation in India, including Women's, have demanded a ban or restriction on polygamy;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps which other Islamic States have taken to ban or restrict polygamy?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri D. E. Chavan): (a) There was no representation from any muslim organisation in India demanding a ban or restriction on

polygamy among the muslims. But it appears from a press report published in the Free Press Journal, Bombay on 19-4-1966 that a demonstration sponsored by the Secular Forum, Bombay was staged by seven muslim women demanding a ban on polygamy among muslims and end of discrimination in civil laws applicable to different communities in a Secular State like India. The demonstrators were allowed to go in a deputation to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for presenting a memo to him.

A telegram urging the abolition of polygamy among muslims was addressed by one muslim individual from West Bengal in May 1966, to the Prime Minister.

(b) Before the Government takes up any proposal to enact a law, it is considered necessary to ascertain the views of the State Governments in the matter.

In August 1966 a letter was addressed to the State Governments seeking their views regarding the enactment of a uniform civil code for all the citizens of India especially in relation to marriage, divorce and succession. From the replies received so far it appears that the State Governments of Mysore, Assam and the Union Territories Administrations of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mampur and Himachal Pradesh, are in favour of enactment of a uniform civil code while the State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Kerala and Rajasthan are not in favour of it. The Government of Maharashtra, while agreeing have suggested the appointment of a Commission consisting of Ulemas, Lawyers and Judges. The Government of Orissa, although in favour, are of the opinion that it will have to be effected slowly and carefully. On the other hand, a large number of representations were received from muslim organisations and individuals vehemently opposing any change in their personal law.

In the circumstances, any proposal for banning or restricting polygamy should emanate from the sections of the people concerned.

(c) The complete data are not available. It is, however, understood that Turkey and Tunisia have imposed restrictions on polygamy. In Pakistan also certain restrictions were imposed on polygamous marriages in 1961.

Purchase of Wheat or Rice from Private Foreign Parties

*1378. Shri R. Barua:
Shri D. N. Patodia:
Shri S. S. Basal:
Shri Eswara Reddy

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recently made any efforts to import wheat or rice from private parties in some foreign countries and obtained their quotations for the deal.

(b) if so how their rates compare with the international market, and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by Government to purchase foodgrains from the private foreign parties?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) This has been done in respect only of rice.

(b) Of the prices for rice quoted by various private parties, some are higher than the international market prices quoted in Trade Journals while others are lower.

(c) Government have been making purchases from any private party whose offer is competitive.