

(c) how much of this wheat and milo will be utilised for building the buffer stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The negotiations for getting supplies of foodgrains during 1968 from the U.S.A. under P.L. 480 are still in progress. The quantity which is likely to be made available under the next agreement is 3.5 million tonnes for the first six months of the year.

(c) Government intend to build up a buffer stock of 3 million tonnes by 31-10-1968, the end of the procurement year 1967-68. The buffer stock contemplated is to be created both out of imports and internal procurement. It is not possible to specify at present how much of the quantities received against the proposed agreement will be utilized for the buffer stock.

SUPPORT PRICE FOR JOWAR

*766. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the minimum support prices for jowar for the 1967-68 crops which are to be marketed during 1968-69 season;

(b) if so, the extent of the increase; and

(c) the effect of the increase on the general price level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The minimum support price of jowar for the crop year 1967-68 has been increased by Rs. 4.00 over the price fixed for the preceding harvesting season.

(c) No effect is anticipated as the procurement prices and the market prices are higher than the minimum support price.

CEILING ON LAND HOLDING IN PLANTATION CULTIVATION

*767. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ceilings have been put for land holding in plantation cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far that has been applied in the tea, coffee and rubber plantations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2062/67].

HIGH PROCUREMENT PRICES

*768. SHRI CHARANJIT RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new procurement prices for foodgrains will result in higher costs to the consumers than at present; and

(b) if so, what would be the percentage of increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) As evidenced by the declining trend in the prices of foodgrains the new procurement prices are not expected to result in higher cost to consumers.

(b) Does not arise.

CONTROL ON MOVEMENT OF FOOD ARTICLES

*769. SHRI S. N. MAITI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irrespective of the ban on the movement