

(b) what forms of assistance the Centre will provide to help the States in implementing their respective procurement programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The recommendations of Agricultural Prices Commission for fixing procurement targets of 7 million tonnes of Kharif Cereals were discussed in the Chief Ministers' conference held during September 1967. Even though it was felt that the target of 7 million tonnes for Kharif production was somewhat high the State Governments agreed that efforts should be made to reach as close to the target as possible.

(b) Arrangements will be made for providing funds required by State Governments for procurement as and when requests are received. In addition, a scheme has been formulated for paying incentive bonus to the surplus states on the export of rice.

RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*172. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of all essential foodgrains have risen during September/October, 1967 in the open market;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the prices; and

(c) whether the State Trading in foodgrains is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) : There has been a declining trend in the prices of essential foodgrains except wheat during September/October 1967 as compared to those prevailing in July/August 1967. The price of wheat has remained almost steady.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Trading in foodgrains on a limited scale is already being continued. Complete monopolisation of the foodgrains trade by the Government is not, however, envisaged, at this stage.

सूखा प्रस्त राज्य

- * 173. श्री रामावतार शर्मा :
 श्री रामजी राम :
 श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री :
 डा० सूर्य प्रकाश पुरी :
 श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
 श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जिन राज्यों में सूखे के कारण हाल ही में अभाव की स्थिति थी उनकी वर्तमान स्थिति कैसी है ;

(ख) क्या अब भी कुछ क्षेत्रों में खाद्यान्नों की कमी है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उन क्षेत्रों में खाद्यान्न सप्लाई करने के लिये क्या व्यवस्था की गई है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री अन्नासाहिब शिन्डे) : (क) से (ग) : सभा के पटल पर एक विवरण रखा जाता है। [पुस्तकालय में रखा गया। देखिए संख्या LT-1635/67]

FALL IN MILK PRODUCTION

*174. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food and Agriculture Organisation of U.N.O. have expressed concern in their recent annual report regarding the constant fall in the production of milk and butter in India; and