

## FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

\*326. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are openly opposing the working of the Central Food Corporation in their areas and would not permit them to work;

(b) if so, which of the States have raised difficulties in the working of the Corporation; and

(c) the action the Central Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The role of the Food Corporation of India and the functions to be performed by it in a State are determined by mutual discussions between the State Government concerned and the Corporation.

## IMPORT OF RICE

\*327. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a rice import deal was made by Government through the Bombay firm of Louis Drefus regarding import of white rice at about 190 dollars per ton with 40 per cent broken when offers were made to sell similar rice at 186 dollars per ton with 35 per cent broken;

(b) if so, the quantities involved;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into this deal; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

## PROGRESS IN PROCUREMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS

\*328. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :  
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :  
SHRI DEORAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made by various States so far in their grain procurement drive;

(b) how far the Centre's expectations in this regard have been fulfilled; and

(c) how far it is going to reduce the country's dependence on imported grains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Though the procurement of the current kharif foodgrains has started in some of the States, in many States it will start only from the middle of December. In the areas where procurement has already started, the progress is satisfactory. It is, however, too early to say whether Government's expectation in the matter of procurement of foodgrains during the current year will be fulfilled.

(c) Procurement of foodgrains does not increase the availability in the country and, as such, it cannot affect imports. Imports can be reduced only by better production. With the good production expected, it should be possible to reduce the country's dependence on imported foodgrains during the current year.

## TELE-COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH PAKISTAN

\*329. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :  
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :  
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :  
SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tele-communication links