

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to have a new printing press for improving the quality of stamps in the country ; and

(b) if so, how far the new press will help in producing the best qualities of stamps ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir, a new equipment for printing stamps in multi-colour is being installed in the India Security Press, Nasik some time in the early next year.

(b) With the new machinery more attractive and colourful stamps can be produced in natural colours which could not be done with the existing machinery restricted to only two colours.

Quantity of Foodgrains Procured by F.C.I. During Last Three Years

*792. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India during the last three years and that to be procured during the coming year ;

(b) whether paucity of funds is also one of the factors limiting the procuring capacity of the F.C.I. ; and

(c) if so, whether adequate credit is being had from the nationalised banks ; if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

<i>Year</i>	<i>Lakh/tonnes</i>
1967—68	31.95
1968—69	51.77
1969—70	48.38
1970—71	61.53 (estimated)

Curbing of Groundnut Prices in Gujarat

*793. SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Government have expressed their concern over the Union Government's failure to cooperate with the State Government in curbing the rising prices of groundnut oil in the State ;

(b) if so, whether there was a severe criticism about this in the State Assembly ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. The Union Government have been giving due consideration to any proposals made by Gujarat Government for stabilisation of prices of groundnut oil in the context of the all-India situation.

(b) Reports of the debate on groundnut oil prices in the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha on November 19, 1970 have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) A watch is kept on the supply and price situation of groundnut and groundnut oil and suitable measures are taken in the light of the needs of the country as a whole, to the extent feasible.