

1967-68, some of the sugar mills could not utilise their full licensed capacity for sugar production in view of shortage of sugarcane.

(c) The Government adopted a policy of partial decontrol of sugar during 1967-68 with a view to arresting the decline in area under sugarcane and to maximise sugar production. As a result of this policy, the production of sugar during 1967-68 was 22.5 lakh tonnes, as against 16 to 17 lakh tonnes which could be expected under conditions of complete control. There is also a substantial increase in area under sugarcane during 1968-69 which is likely to result in higher production of sugar during that year.

FIRE IN OFFICE OF OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE

1570. DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in the Office of Overseas Communication Service on the 23rd September, 1968;

(b) whether any sabotage is suspected in this fire.

(c) whether Government have ordered an inquiry into this incident; and

(d) if so, the details of the inquiry and action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Fire broke out in the Office of Overseas Communications Service in New Delhi on the 25th September, 1968.

(b) and (d). An inquiry into this incident is being made and report of the Delhi Administration in this respect is awaited.

MULTIPLE CROPPING

1571. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area brought under multiple cropping so far;

(b) the general pattern of crops followed in these areas;

(c) whether irrigation facilities exist in these areas; and

(d) whether any special help has been given to prevent deterioration of the soil due to production of multiple crops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) An area of about 56 million acres has so far been brought under multiple cropping in the country.

(b) The cropping pattern varies from area to area depending on the agro-climatic conditions in the country like soil types, irrigation intensity farmers' preferences, etc. Certain cropping patterns have been developed to raise more than one or two crops a year-for e.g.

Paddy, paddy-wheat
Maize, paddy-wheat
Maize, Oilseeds-wheat
Maize, Potatoes-wheat
Paddy, paddy, pulses.

(c) Multiple cropping depends on soil moisture among other factors. So irrigated and assured rainfall areas are particularly suitable for this programme. Farmers have adopted this programme when enough water for the crop is available.

(d) No. Generally, there should be no deterioration of soil due to multiple cropping. The use of fertilisers and manures is recommended to recuperate the soil fertility. Efforts have been directed to introduce pulses in the Multiple Cropping Programme as a legume crop grown along with other crops for the maintenance of soil fertility.

CHEMICAL MANURES

1572. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantities of different chemical manures supplied to the various States during the second quarter of 1967-68 against their quotas for the year; and

(b) the reasons for the failure, if any in meeting the demand according to the previous promises made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) A statement giving the information about the quantities of fertilisers allotted in favour of the State Govern-

ments for the year 1967-68 and the quarter July-September 1967 and the quantities of fertilisers supplied during this quarter is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2252/68.]

(b) Deficiency in supply was partly due to shortfall in the indigenous production of fertilisers and partly due to closure of the Suez Canal which necessitated diversion of fertiliser vessels via Cape of Good Hope, thereby causing dislocation and delay in supplies through imports. The States could, however, meet their requirements for Kharif 1967 with the help of the sizable carry-over stock with them.

LAND CONSERVATION IN U.P.

1573. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh for land conservation during 1967-68; and

(b) the amount spent on the said work during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) An outlay of Rs. 313.70 lakhs was allocated to U.P. State for soil conservation programme, comprising of Rs. 297.70 lakhs for State Plan schemes and Rs. 16.00 lakhs for Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(b) Rs. 258.26 lakhs is the anticipated utilisation comprising Rs. 243.26 lakhs under State Plan Schemes and Rs. 15.00 lakhs for Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

LAND MORTGAGE BANKS IN U.P.

1574. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the programme of the land mortgage banks in regard to giving loans and issuing bonds in Uttar Pradesh during 1968-69; and

(b) the amount of aid given to these Banks in 1967-68 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND

COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The State Government have indicated that, for the year 1968-69, a loaning target of Rs. 21 crores through ordinary debentures and Rs. 6 crores under special debentures, has been fixed for land development banks in Uttar Pradesh. The supported programme for floating of ordinary debentures by the Uttar Pradesh State Cooperative Land Development Bank during 1968-69 as approved in a meeting convened by Reserve Bank in February 1968, is Rs. 10 crores.

(b) The State Government gave the following assistance during 1967-68 :

(i) Subsidy . . . Rs. 2,31,265.55 P.

(ii) State Government's investment in debentures of the Uttar Pradesh State Cooperative Land Development Bank Rs. 503.95 lakhs

The Central Government provided a loan assistance of Rs. 208.30 lakhs to the Uttar Pradesh Government during 1967-68 to enable them to contribute to the debentures of the land development bank.

WHEAT SUPPLY TO HARYANA FROM THE CENTRAL POOL

1575. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : SHRI RAM KISHAN GUPTA :

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

(a) whether the Government of Haryana in view of the drought conditions in the State have demanded of Central Government to increase its monthly wheat deliveries from the Central Pool to 20,000 tonnes;

(b) whether the State Government have also requested the Government to increase its quota of sugar to enable the former to increase the quota in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to the above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Haryana Government has been pressing for allotment of sugar quotas on the basis of population.