

wheat supplied to the different States at uniform rates; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) The Central Government is subsidizing the sale of imported wheat and coarse rice to the State Governments from its stocks. The rate of subsidy is uniform in the case of imported wheat as its issue price has been fixed uniformly for all the States. It is not uniform for the coarse rice.

(b) The issue price of coarse rice has been fixed at the level of ex-mill procurement prices maximum controlled prices or cost of rice produced out of the locally procured paddy, prevailing in a State, depending upon the existence of one system or the other in a particular state.

Allocation of Foodgrains to West Bengal

*623. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
 Shri Bhagaban Das:
 Shri K. Haldar:
 Shri Ganesh Ghosh:
 Dr. Ranen Sen:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Tridib Kumar
 Chandhuri:
 Shri Deven Sen:
 Shri Samar Guha:
 Shri Chittaranjan Roy:
 Shri B. K. Daschowdhury:
 Shri P. B. Thakur:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monthly allocations of rice and wheat asked for by the West Bengal Government have been reaching that State, month by month, since March, 1967;

(b) whether, subsequent to the allocations being made, near-famine

conditions have developed in the drought-affected Districts like Bankura, Purulia etc., and

(c) if so, whether some additional allocations will be made to meet this emergency situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) At a meeting with the Chief Minister, Food Minister and Finance Minister of West Bengal, held towards the end of March, 1967, it was agreed that West Bengal would be supplied 5,000 tonnes of rice and 75,000 tonnes of wheat per month up to June, 1967. Actual supplies of rice averaged over 15,000 tonnes. The supply of wheat, however, was lower than the allotted quota of 75,000 tonnes during April and May.

(b) The Districts of Purulia and Bankura have been affected by drought and scarcity conditions have developed there. It is not, however, possible to determine any exact date from which the scarcity conditions started.

(c) West Bengal Government have been allotted 5,000 tonnes of mill during June for distribution in the drought affected areas.

Closure of sugar factories in Bihar

*624. Shri Kameshwar Singh:
 Shri A. Sreedharan:
 Shri K. M. Madhukar:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Raghuvir Singh Shastri:
 Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:
 Shri Mohan Prasad:
 Shri Arjun Singh Bhaderia:
 Shri Laxman Lal Kapoor:
 Shri S. Kundra:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9 sugar factories in Bihar are on the verge of closure due to the inadequate cane supplies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the management of these sugar factories have sought the permission to shift their factories to South India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation, keeping in view the drastic cut in the sugar quota of Bihar by the Union Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasabeh Shinde): (a) According to the information received from the Government of Bihar, nine factories in Bihar may not be able to work during the next crushing season for want of cane.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Measures to augment supplies of sugarcane to mills during 1967-68 season are under consideration.

Purchase of wheat in U.S. Market

*625. **Shri Samar Guha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the U.S. Government have permitted the Central Government to buy 400,000 tonnes of wheat in the U.S. market;

(b) whether this quantity is included in the anticipated agreement for 1.5 million tonnes for which negotiations are reported to have succeeded;

(c) the manner in which Government have planned for buying, transportation and distribution of this quantity of wheat to the deficit States; and

(d) when Government expect the buying and arrival of this quantum of wheat to be completed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasabeh Shinde): (a) and (b).

Pending finalization of a new PL-480 agreement, the U.S. Government have permitted, on a specific request from the Government of India, purchase of about 600 thousand tonnes of foodgrains (480 thousand tonnes wheat and 120 thousand tonnes milo) through the issue of reimbursable purchase authorisations. This quantity will form part of the supply under the proposed new agreement for 1.5 million tonnes of foodgrains.

(c) This quantity is being purchased in the usual manner by the India Supply Mission, Washington. Shipping will also be arranged, as usual, by the India Supply Mission, Washington and the Chief Controller of Chartering, New Delhi. The quantity will go into the general pool of foodgrain supplies available to the Government of India from imports and internal procurement and will be issued to the State Governments and other consumers in accordance with the allocation made from the general pool. It is not, therefore, possible to indicate the State-wise allocation of this particular quantity.

(d) The entire quantity of 6 lakh tonnes is expected to be purchased before the end of June, shipped before the end of July, 1967 and expected to be received in India completely by about the middle of September, 1967.

Sugar Industry in U.P.

*626. **Shrimati Sushila Rohtagi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the Sugar industry, the main industry of U.P. is shifting to the South;

(b) whether the research carried out at the Kanpur Sugar Institute reveals that U.P. Soil is good for sugarcane production;

(c) whether it also shows that if given adequate supply of water, the sugarcane production compares favourably with the South in its sugar content and yield per acre; and