

(b) Orissa promised out right supply of 75,000 tonnes of rice and agreed to consider supply of some more rice in exchange for wheat Punjab promised 6 lakh tonnes of all foodgrains No other State gave any definite promise

Production of Tobacco

*1371 Shri G. S. Reddy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

- (a) the State which produces maximum quantity of tobacco,
- (b) the different bodies which promote the production and export of tobacco and
- (c) the steps being taken to remove the slump in the market?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Andhra Pradesh

(b) State Agriculture Departments are primarily responsible for tobacco production. The Indian Tobacco Development Council consisting of representatives of the Centre, the States and the growers etc with headquarters at Madras has been set up by the Government of India to look after development and marketing functions in relation to tobacco. The Regional Office Tobacco Development at Madras under the Central Department of Agriculture assists the Tobacco Development Council in the implementation of development programmes. The Tobacco Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Commerce looks after all matters relating to promotion of exports

(c) There has been slump in the market of sundried (Natu) country tobacco in Andhra Pradesh where a stock of about 10 million kgs had accumulated. It is reported that the stock now remaining unsold is not more than 5 million Kgs. The

following measures are being considered to clear the stocks:—

- (i) Survey of the stock to find the saleable quantity and quality
- (ii) Persuasion of cigarette, bidi and cheroot manufacturers to buy a portion of saleable quantity. Due to labour trouble in Calcutta, a company which buys about 3 to 5 million Kilograms annually did not enter the market at all, which caused serious upset. It is understood that this firm is likely to enter the market very soon
- (iii) exploring the possibility of export of Syria and UAR

Procurement of Foodgrains by Food Corporation of India

*1372. Shri Madhu Limay:
Shri S. M. Banerjee
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
Shri George Fernandes.

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the surplus States are resisting the attempts to procure foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India on a large scale in such States because the prices are not remunerative,

(b) whether the surplus States have asked the Central Government to procure for them essential manufactured commodities at a reasonable rate or at parity with the procurement prices and

(c) if so the response of the Central and State Governments concerned thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.