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Secretary Freeman Announces Immediate Action on Indian Grain Shipments:

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said today that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has moved immediately to implement the President's announcement made yesterday that U. S. grain shipments to India will be accelerated.

The Department announced today both the signing of a facilitating amendment to an existing Title I, Public Law 480 agreement with India and the issuance of facilitating purchase authorizations. The amended agreement provides \$87,560,000 for shipment of 55 million bushels (approximately 1.5 million tons) of grain to India.

"Under this new approach both the quantity of grain available to India and the rate of shipping that grain will be increased," Secretary Freeman said. "We are making a variety of grains available both to meet the varied needs of the Indian people and to facilitate shipping from several ports in the United States."

"We plan to make this grain available to the Government of India just as rapidly as it is capable of transporting and distributing it. We share its deep concern over an impending food crisis resulting from a poor harvest. These accelerated shipments are one way the United States is demonstrating this concern."

The issuance of three purchase authorizations today under this amended agreement will finance the immediate purchase by India of a total of \$45,521,000 worth of wheat and grain sorghum from U. S. suppliers. Because of the urgent need for grain in India, the usual 7-day waiting period between issuance of purchase authorizations and contracting and shipments of commodities has been waived.

Authorization 39-169 provides \$11,795,000 for purchase of about 200,000 tons of wheat, grade U. S. No. 2 or better, in bulk. Only the following wheat will be eligible for financing: (1) white wheat of the subclasses hard white, soft white, white club, and western white; (2) hard red spring of the subclasses dark northern spring, northern spring, and red spring; (3) hard red winter of the subclasses dark hard winter, hard winter, and yellow hard winter; and (4) mixed wheat containing not more than 5 percent of the classes of wheat, excluding durum, other than the classes specified in (2) and (3).

Delivery of the white wheat will be to importer, f.o.b. vessel, U. S. Pacific ports, and of the hard wheat, to importer, f.o.b. vessel, U. S. Great Lakes, Gulf, and Atlantic ports, or Canadian transshipment points.

Authorization 39-170 provides \$4,726,000 for purchase of about 100,000 metric tons of yellow grain sorghum, Grade U. S. No.2 or better, in bulk. Delivery will be to importer, f.o.b. vessel, ports of exportation.

Authorization 39-171 provides \$29,000,000 for purchase of about 500,000 metric tons of wheat, in bulk. Only the following wheat will be eligible for financing (1) hard red spring of the subclasses dark northern spring, northern spring, and red spring, U. S. No. 3 or better; (2) hard red winter of the subclasses dark hard winter, hard winter, and yellow hard winter, U. S. No. 2 or better; and (3) durum wheat of the subclasses hard amber durum, U. S. No. 3 or better. Delivery will be to importer, f.o.b. vessel, U. S. Great Lakes, Gulf, or Atlantic Coast ports, or Canadian transshipment points.

For all three authorizations, sales contracts made between Dec. 10, 1965 and Feb. 15, 1966, will be eligible for financing. Shipments may be made between Dec. 10 1965 and Feb. 28, 1966.

Payment for the grain included in the amendment will be in Indian rupees. The amendment provides that 75 percent of the rupees are to be made available for economic development loans to India and 20 percent be set aside for U. S. uses. The remaining 5 percent will be available for loans to United States and Indian private business firms. These private enterprise loans will be made by the Agency for International Development (AID), U. S. Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20523

Information concerning purchases may be obtained from the India Supply Mission 2536 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20008 (Telephone: Columbia 5-5200).

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(Further information may be obtained from the Program Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Phone DUDley 8-6211 or DUDley 8-5433. Please refer to press release USDA 3954-65).