

(d) The steps taken for increasing the revenue earnings include development of land and disposal to commercial properties such as the shopping complexes, office complexes, cinema sites, Hotel sites, etc.

[English]

### Price Support to Farmers

2161. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefit of price support given to farmers of cereals, sugar-cane and cotton are grabbed by the middlemen by market-manipulation during distress sale; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b). Wheat, paddy and coarse grains are procured by Food Corporation of India/State procuring agencies directly from farmers under price support scheme with a view to avoid any chances of distress sale of foodgrains by farmers below the support price. Procurement is made on the basis of voluntary sale by farmers and is undertaken at a large number of centres, which are mostly mandies, where the farmer is free to sell either to FCI or designated state procuring agencies or to private traders/millers if he can get a price higher than support price. No middlemen are involved in the procurement operations.

As regards sugar-cane, the Central Government fixed the minimum sugar-cane price Sugar (Control) Order, 1966 payable by vacuum pan sugar factories. No vacuum pan sugar factory can pay to the growers less than the statutory minimum sugar-cane

price fixed by the Central Government.

The cotton Corporation of India Ltd. under the Ministry of Textiles is the nodal agency for carrying out price support operations in the eventuality of drop in market prices of Cotton/Kapas below the minimum support price levels. The C.C.I. Generally purchases Cotton/Kapas in the Regulated Markets in open auctions/secret tender system under the aegis of the Regular Market Committees which are statutory bodies entrusted with the responsibility of marketing of agricultural produce. The Corporation also purchases Cotton/Kapas through primary cooperative societies of cotton growers. No middlemen are involved in the entire process.

### Central Committee on Pesticide

2162. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Central Committee on Pesticides Residue to look into the various harmful effects of the same;

(b) the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether eminent experts from Indian Council of Agriculture Research also represents the Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) There is a Pesticide Residue Sub-Committee to assist Central Committee for Food standards on matters pertaining to Pesticide Residues in Food Products.

(b) The composition of the Committee is given in the statement below.