

Procurement of Foodgrains

- *48. { Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

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

(a) the total amount of rice and wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India upto date; and

(b) the target fixed and also the percentage of target achieved?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) The Food Corporation of India has so far undertaken direct procurement of rice only in Pondicherry and so far it has procured a quantity of about 3,300 tonnes as against the target of 3,000 tonnes. In other Southern States the Corporation is engaged only on post-procurement operations. The Corporation has not yet been entrusted with the procurement of wheat.

(b) In respect of Pondicherry the Corporation has exceeded the target by 10 per cent. No targets were fixed for the Corporation in respect of other states.

Maximum Prices of Wheat

*49. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided not to fix up statutory maximum prices of wheat;

(b) whether this decision is at variance with the policy adopted in respect of paddy; and

(c) the reason as to why no statutory prices have been fixed for wheat?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) It was decided after consultation with the Chief Ministers to give the State Government discretion whether to fix maximum prices or not.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As stated in the reply to (a) above, it was left to the discretion of the State Governments to fix maximum prices for wheat, after taking into account the local situation in respect of prices and supply, the impact on market arrivals and their ability to enforce maximum prices. The Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have fixed statutory maximum prices for wheat; in the other States maximum prices for wheat have not been statutorily fixed.

Procurement of Rice

- *50. { Shri Daji:
Shri Mohammad Elias:
Shrimati Vimla Devi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Basappa:
Shri Solanki:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri Warrior:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

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

(a) whether the target fixed for procuring rice for Central stocks has been fulfilled;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a leakage of grains into unexpected quarters both at the procurement and distribution ends; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce monopoly purchase of rice by the Food Corporation to plug these leakages?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). Every effort is being made to fulfil the target fixed for procuring rice for Central stocks during cur-