

result of a request from the Central Government, but the extent of their assistance is not known.

Procurement of Rice from Surplus States

- *7. **Shri Balmiki:**
Shri Bagri:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Kinshen Pattanayak:
Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for the procurement of rice from the surplus States;

(b) the quantity of rice proposed to be procured for the deficit States; and

(c) the broad details of the procurement policy of Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). There is no scheme of direct procurement by Central Government. The State Governments of the surplus States will procure rice and make it available to Government for supply to the deficit States. It has not been possible to fix firm targets of procurement as yet. Efforts are, however, being made to maximise procurement on Government account.

(c) The broad details of the procurement policy are as follows:

1. Procurement is being undertaken not only in surplus

States but also in deficit States to enable control of Government over as large a part of the marketable surplus as possible.

2. Previously, procurement was confined to foodgrains like paddy, rice and wheat. The scope of procurement has now been broadened to include coarse cereals like jawar, bajra, maize and gram.

3. The sources from which procurement used to be made have been broad-based to include the producers in addition to the millers and the registered dealers.

Intensive Agricultural Programmes

- *8. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent detailed study made by his Ministry has revealed that the intensive agricultural programmes are likely to be hampered by the shortage of fertilisers and pesticides; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make enough of fertilisers and pesticides available for carrying the programmes through?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) and (b). No such study has been made by the Department of Agricul-