

Food Position

- *39. **Shri N. R. Laskar:**
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri Liladhar Kotaki:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's assessment of the food situation in the country at present; and

(b) the details of the measures taken or planned to meet the food situation and maintain supplies of minimum foodgrains to all the people throughout the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) The present food situation in the country is difficult but not out of control.

(b) The details of the measures taken or planned have been indicated in the "Review of the Food Situation" which has been circulated to the Members of the Sabha.

Price of Rationed Wheat in Delhi

- *40. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Bagri:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kishen Pattanayak:
Shri Maurya:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shrimati Malmoona Sultan:
Shri M. Rampure:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the price of rationed wheat, wheat products and rice in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government proposed to take to bring down the prices?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) The issue price of Punjab indigenous wheat distributed through ration shops in Delhi has been increased. No increase in the issue prices of rationed rice, imported wheat and wheat products have been made since the introduction of rationing in Delhi.

(b) The increase in the issue price of Punjab indigenous wheat in Delhi was necessitated on account of its higher economic cost as a result of the increased procurement prices of wheat in Punjab for 1966-67 season.

(c) The various steps taken to check the rise in prices of foodgrains in the country include opening of more fair price shops, extension of statutory rationing|informal rationing to more areas, larger imports from abroad etc. The most important step recently taken is the decision of the Government not to raise further the issue prices of foodgrains issued from the Central stocks even though the cost of imported foodgrains has gone up considerably consequent upon devaluation. The issue prices are thus being maintained at the pre-devaluation level.

Food Production during Kharif and Rabi Seasons

- *41. **Shri Linga Reddy:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Sezhiyan:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Mohan Swarup: