

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:

Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

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

(a) whether the latest reports of food production during the last kharif and rabi seasons from the several States have been reviewed;

(b) if so, the estimated yield of food production indicating the deficit during the current year; and

(c) the extent and the manner in which the deficit of food production has been met?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). Yes, a review of the estimates of production of different foodgrains for the year 1965-66 has been made. The total production of foodgrains in the country is estimated to be of the order of 72.3 million tonnes indicating a decline of 16.7 tonnes compared to that of the last year.

(c) The deficit is being met by restricting consumption through rationing and importing as much foodgrains as is possible. So far, arrangements have been finalised for the import of 11 million tonnes of foodgrains. Agreements for additional imports are also under negotiations.

Food Position in West Bengal

*42. **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Nath Pai:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Dr. Ranen Sen:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 18th May, 1966, he told Congress M.P.s from West Bengal that the State's food policy will have a crucial test in July and August this year;

(b) whether it is likely that West Bengal is going to be in the grip of famine as it had been recently in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the special steps Government propose to take to help the State to tide over the impending difficult days?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) No, Sir. The statement was only to the effect that July-August would be the crucial months of the food situation.

(b) and (c). All efforts are being made to meet the needs of West Bengal during the coming months. The Government do not expect conditions of famine to develop in that State.

Report of Managing Agency Enquiry Committee

*43. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bagri:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Managing Agency Enquiry Committee have since been examined by Government;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Law (Shri G. S. Pathak): (a) to (c). The recommendations of the Managing Agency Enquiry Committee are under consideration of Government and a decision is expected to be taken thereon very soon.