

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that rice-mills in the States have been appointed as agents to purchase rice and they supply rice to the Government?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes. I find in some States the rice mills purchase rice for the Government because it is convenient to do so. They gather rice from various cultivators and they give rice to the Government.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government in those States also purchase rice in the open market?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid questions regarding details of administration and management of State Governments should properly be put in the local legislatures.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether Government of India is going to de-control foodgrains in all the States as in Madras?

Shri Karmarkar: That would require notice obviously.

Shri Pocker Saheb: May I know whether the Government has decided to de-control foodgrains so far as Madras State is concerned, and if so, whether in spite of that procurement by levy system continues in the surplus areas in that State?

Shri Karmarkar: That would also require notice.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it the policy of the Government to enforce a uniform system of procurement throughout India?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir; that is not the policy. It will vary according to the local circumstances.

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*664. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the rates of procurement prices fixed for different foodgrains in different States?

(b) Have these rates been revised or whether these were the same as the last year?

(c) What were the recommendations or suggestions in this regard made by different States?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 3.]

(b) In case of Rabi grains the procurement prices are the same as fixed

for last year except Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh who have of their own accord fixed lower prices. In case of *Kharif* grains, the procurement prices were revised in some of the States.

(c) Small increases in prices over that of previous year were suggested by some of the State Governments and where considered reasonable were accepted in full or at a reduced rate. Generally the prices were fixed on the levels obtaining in the previous year.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the States suggested an increase in price and Government turned down the proposal?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the names of the States?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to find out.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the margin of difference between the procurement price and the issue price in those States?

Mr. Speaker: That is an oft-repeated question. It will vary from State to State.

Shri S. N. Das: A committee was appointed to enquire into the wide difference between the procurement price and issue price in West Bengal Government. May I know whether the Government has come to any decision?

Shri Karmarkar: Only about West Bengal?

Shri S. N. Das: Yes.

Shri Karmarkar: I have no information.

Dr P. S. Deshmukh:—Is it a fact that a slight increase in the procurement price has brought in much more grain in Madhya Pradesh than was anticipated?

Shri Karmarkar: In Madhya Pradesh we get grains very easily either at a higher price or a lower price.

M.L.O

*665. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reduction has been made recently in the pooled prices of milo; and

(b) if so, what is the reduced price of milo?