

[Translation]

Procurement of Paddy

1378. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for procurement of paddy during 1996-97 and the actual quantity procured till date;

(b) whether any complaint has been received that the paddy procurement units did not procure paddy from the farmers and the farmers had to suffer a huge loss; and

(c) if so, the quantity of paddy procured directly from the producers in the Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Paddy is procured for Central Pool under price support scheme on a totally voluntary basis and no targets, as such, can be fixed for its procurement. Procurement of paddy will be undertaken during 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season from 1st October, 1996 when the season starts. However, during the current Kharif marketing season, 1995-96 starting from 1st October, 1995, a quantity of 77.96 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured so far (upto 8.3.1996).

(b) During the 1995-96 Kharif marketing Season only 3 complaints have so far been received in the Ministry of Food relating to procurement of paddy/rice. These were immediately sent to FCI/State Government for prompt remedial action.

(c) No paddy has been purchased in Siddharth Nagar, U.P. during the current Kharif Marketing Season as the prevailing prices of paddy (Fair Average Quality) there were above the minimum Support Prices.

[English]

Speech Therapy Centres

1379. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any recommendation by the Medical Council of India that each ENT Department particularly in the Government hospitals should have speech therapy centres;

(b) if so, whether Speech Therapy Centre is not available in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) The Medical Council of India in its recommendations on Minimum Standard Requirement for a Medical College with 100 annual admissions have prescribed one post of speech therapist ENT under the Deptt. of Surgery and its allied specialities.

(b) There is no Speech Therapy Centre in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

Medical Colleges

1380. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether books in Hindi on medical science have been made available for medical colleges so as to make the official language as a medium of instruction; and

(b) if not, the arrangements made for preparing the books originally in Hindi and for translating the English books into the Hindi version?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Medical Council of India some books in Hindi are available for certain subjects in a few medical colleges.

To encourage availability of more Hindi books, there is a scheme under which authors writing the best original books in Hindi are rewarded.

Vandalisation of forests in Sikkim

1381. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had sought comments from the Government of Sikkim for vandalisation of its valuable forests;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty person and to stop vandalisation of the forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) Information has been sought from the Government of Sikkim and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CGHS Benefits to retired employees

1382. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to extend CGHS benefit to the retired employees;

(b) if so, the norms fixed therefor; and

(c) the date from which the benefit is expected to be made available to the retired employees?