

of the area, a unified scheme of Special Rice Production Programme and Special Foodgrain Production Programme—Rice is being implemented as integrated programme for rice development in Eastern States.

STATEMENT

*Per Hectare Yield of Rice (in kgs)
During 1990-91 (Prov.) State-wise*

Andhra Pradesh	2502
Assam	1293
Bihar	1254
Gujarat	1490
Haryana	2778
Himachal Pradesh	1247
Jammu & Kashmir	2431
Karnataka	1836
Kerala	1837
Madhya Pradesh	1176
Maharashtra	1413
Orissa	1207
Punjab	3229
Rajasthan	1183
Tamil Nadu	3075
Uttar Pradesh	1826
West Bengal	1768
All India	1751

Financial Assistance to Apple Growers of Himachal Pradesh

1235. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government from the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh for providing financial assistance to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main demands enumerated in the memorandum relate to support price for fruits, arrangement of cartons for packaging apples and cold storage facilities and markets. The Government have introduced the market intervention scheme for procurement of apple in Himachal Pradesh during 1990. The price for Grade 'A' apple was kept at Rs. 4 per kg. and for culled grade apple at Rs. 1.30 per kg. A quantity of 4587 metric tonnes of culled apple fruits were procured @ Rs. 1.30 per kg. For 1991 season, the procurement price for 'A' Grade apple is kept at Rs. 5 per kg and for processable culled fruits at Rs. 2.75 per kg. About 20% of the total procurement of 40,000 metric tonnes would be processable culled fruits. Regarding supply of corrugated cartons, the Central Government has provided financial assistance for setting up a Corrugated Fibre Board (CFB) Carton factory in Himachal Pradesh which was commissioned during 1990-91. The Government have also waived excise duty on kraft paper used for manufacture of these cartons.

This Department also provides technical guidance for the scientific use of cold storage facilities of which there are 14 with a capacity of 9,412 tonnes.

Flood Assistance to Bihar

1236. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual loss of crop, life and property caused to Bihar on account of floods; and

(b) the programme/strategy contemplated by the Government to solve the problem including the nature and the quantum of the Central assistance proposed to be given therefor?