

जबकि सरकारी आदेशों के अनुसार एक बोरे में वास्तव में 95 किलो चावल भरा जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार बारदाने में कम की गई रकम का किसानों को भुगतान कराने का है, यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या लेवी वसूली वाले अन्य राज्यों में भी इसी प्रकार की नीति है ?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) राजस्थान के चावल मिल मालिकों द्वारा जिन खाली बोरियों में लेवी चावल बेचा जाता है वे उनकी दरें निर्धारित नहीं करते हैं। मिल मालिकों द्वारा केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए सुपुर्दे किए गए चावल की खाली बोरियों की प्रति क्विंटल दरें, बोरों में 95 किलोग्राम चावल भरने की क्षमता को ध्यान में रखकर, सरकार द्वारा त्रैमासिक आधार पर निर्धारित की जाती है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ग) यह प्रथा लेवी वसूली वाले अधिकांश राज्यों में भी अपनाई जाती है।

Ceiling on Agricultural Land

3063. SHRI DHARAM VIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ceiling on agricultural land was fixed by the former Government on other considerations than the expert advice of leading agricultural experts including Punjab and Haryana Agricultural Universities;

(b) whether no marked rise in Agricultural production has taken place as a result of lowering of ceiling of agricultural land; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the results of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Fixing the ceiling on agricultural and holdings lies entirely with the State Governments. However, on the basis of the recommendations made by a conference of the Chief Ministers of the States held in 1972, the Central Government issued national guidelines on ceiling on agricultural land holdings suggesting among others the various levels of ceiling applicable to various categories of land. In framing the guidelines, all relevant factors including the social and economic were taken into consideration. Keeping in view the fact that the recommendations flowed from the consensus amongst Chief Ministers of the States, it was not considered necessary to invite and examine the expert advice of agricultural experts including Punjab and Haryana Agricultural Universities.

(b) and (c). As agricultural production is affected by a number of factors such as cultivated area, irrigation, inputs like fertilisers, improved seeds, adoption of improved technology, land reforms, price policy and weather, it is not possible to give a precise quantitative idea of the effect of a single factor such as lowering of ceiling of agricultural land on production. It may be, however, mentioned that since 1972-73, despite fluctuations from year to year, the agricultural production has registered a generally increasing trend as will be seen from the following figures:

Index number of agricultural production

(Base : Triennium ending 1961-62= 100)

1972-73	120.4
1973-74	133.3
1974-75	128.6
1975-76	148.6

(For 1976-77 firm estimates of production are not yet available. However, the total production is likely to fall compared to 1975-76, nevertheless it is likely to remain higher than in any of the other preceding years).

The fundamental justification of ceilings on agricultural holdings is more equitable distribution of land resources. A number of persons who had no land or very little land were to be allotted ceiling surplus lands and thereby enabled to improve their incomes. The ceiling law is basically an instrument of social justice and there is no proposal to review it.

Famine-like condition in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3064. SHRI MANORANJAN BAKHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to heavy crop failure this year famine-like conditions prevail in the rural areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and if so, the reliefs provided to the farmers;

(b) whether a Kilo of rice is sold at Bakultalah, Middle Andamans at the rate of Rs. 5/-, if so, action taken to bring down the prices; and

(c) whether pesticide supplied by Agriculture Department last year was of inferior quality and resulted in large scale uncontrollable pest attack and if so, the measures taken during this year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). The information has been called for from the Union Territory Administration which is still awaited. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

Forest Corporation for Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3065. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement the proposed Forest Corporation for Andaman and Nicobar Islands expeditiously and if so, main feature thereof;

(b) the programme to be undertaken for the year 1977-78; and

(c) whether proposed Plantation Corporation for Andaman and Nicobar Islands is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. with an approved outlay of Rs. 1.70 crores in two years in the first phase had already been set up in January, 1977 under the Companies Act, 1956. It aims at harvesting of forest resources of the Islands to the maximum extent, marketing of timber and other forest products and re-stocking of harvested areas with valuable species with artificial and natural regeneration and promoting the setting up of wood based industries.

(b) During 1977-78 it is proposed to extract 15,000 Cum of timber.

(c) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation will handle both plantation and forest operations. Action is being taken to establish Red Oil Palm Plantation Corporation as a subsidiary of the said Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation.