

in Ayodhya appearing in the 'Statesman' dated March 11, 1992; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sherds of Northern Black Polished Ware, fragments of a sprinkler, a spout, damaged parts of terracotta figures, a broken soapstone bowl and a brick datable to early historical period, besides glazed ware of the medieval period, were amongst the finds reported from recent digging near Babri Masjid, Ayodhya, U.P.

Procurement of Wheat and Rice

6423. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the projected procurement of wheat and rice during the ensuing 1992-93 marketing season beginning from April 1, 1992 as against procurement in the previous season;

(b) the estimated procurement of rice during the ongoing 1991-92 marketing season;

(c) whether the procurement of rice has suffered a set back;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether the subject was discussed and directives given to the States in the Conference of State Food Ministers held on 13 March, 1992 in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The procurement of wheat for Central Pool has been 77.52 lakh tonnes during 1991-92 rabi marketing season (April-March). The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been 91.66 lakh tonnes till 3rd April, 1992, during current 1991-92 kharif marketing season (October-September). The procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers being totally on voluntary basis and the procurement of rice from millers/dealers under levy being dependent on the quantum of paddy purchased by them, no definite projection can be made for 1992-93 rabi marketing season.

(b) to (d). The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) during kharif 1991-92 as on 3-4-92 is 91.66 lakh tonnes as against 113.84 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year. The procurement during this year is lower mainly due to lesser procurement during in Andhra Pradesh caused by damages to the crop in the State due to cyclonic rains in October-November, 1991 and also due to lesser production in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana which are the major procuring States. It is expected that another 14 lakh tonnes of rice will be procured in the remaining period of kharif season, i.e. from April, 1992 to September, 1992 mainly from Andhra Pradesh (10 lakh tonnes), Tamil Nadu (1 lakh tonnes) and remaining in the rest of States.

(e) Yes, Sir, The Conference of Food Ministers of all State Governments/Union Territories was held by the Minister of State (independent charge) for Food on 14th March, 1992.

(f) The State Food Minister were requested to make all out efforts to maximise procurement of foodgrains (wheat and rice) for Central Pool.