

Japanese Technical Cooperation to Improve Agricultural Production

355. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider the Japanese technical co-operation to improve agricultural productivity in India since productivity per hectare in Japan is nearly three times more than that in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal under consideration for Japanese Technical Cooperation to improve agricultural productivity in India.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of High Power Doordarshan Relay Centre at Chobatia

*356. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding setting up of High Power Doordarshan Relay Centre at Chobatia in Ranikhet during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no approved scheme as yet in this regard.

[*English*]

Implementation of Palekar Award

357. SHRI STYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any State Government has reported that certain newspaper establishments are not implementing the Palekar Award for working journalists ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against these establishments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are responsible for enforcing the Award. Information received from various State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations indicates that they are taking legal and persuasive measures to have the Award implemented by the newspaper establishments.

Procurement and Sale Price of Rice

358. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether record 80 lakh metric tonnes has been procured so far as reported in Hindustan Times dated 24 February, 1985 ;

(b) what was the procurement price and sale price of rice and whether any losses were incurred by Government and if so, details of such losses including handling, transport and storage losses ;

(c) whether State Governments are debarred or discouraged from procurement of foodgrains in their own States and outside their States ; and

(d) if so, whether Central Government meet the requirements of State Government agencies for Public Distribution System and for any other welfare projects and if not reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A total of 80.64 lakhs MT of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured according to reports received upto 15.3.85.

(b) Paddy is purchased under price support. Rs. 137/-, Rs. 141/ and Rs. 145/ per quintal, for common, fine, and superfine varieties respectively. Rice is procured mainly under levy at prices based on the support prices of paddy and incidental charges of conversion as relevant to each State. The Central issue price of rice is Rs. 208.00, Rs. 220.00 and Rs. 235/- per quintal for common, fine and superfine varieties respectively. During 1983-84, consumer subsidy on rice, inclusive of transit and storage losses, was Rs. 66.70 per quintal.

(c) State Government are restricted from purchasing foodgrains in the open market on State Government account without the specific permission of the Government of India.

(d) Keeping in view the overall availability of stock in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, market availability and other related factors, Government of India allot foodgrains to State Govts./Union Territories to meet the needs of the Public Distribution System and other schemes like the National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Employment Generation Schemes, etc. However, allotment of foodgrains to State Govts./Union Territories under Public Distribution System is only supplemental in nature and does not aim at meeting the entire needs of the States.

Allotment of Rice to Gujarat

359. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has recently requested the Centre to increase allotment of rice required for distribution under Public Distribution System ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the State Government has received 7,500 tonnes of rice from the Central Pool for Public Distribution System against its monthly demand of 25,000 tonnes of rice ;

(c) whether Government are also aware that due to heavy cut in allotment of

rice from the Central Pool, the State Government has to reduce the quantum of distribution of rice to 500 grams per head per month which is not adequate ; and

(d) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase rice allotment to Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat have been allotted 7,500 tonnes of rice per month since October, 1982, against their monthly demand for 25,000 tonnes. In March 1983, they indicated that they had reduced the monthly scale of ration of rice to 500 grams per capita and requested for allocation upto their fully demand of 25,000 tonnes of rice per month. The request for increase in allocation, which was also repeated in June, 1984, however, could not be agreed to because of tight position of rice stocks in the Central Pool and keeping in view the fact that the shortfall in rice allocation was fully made good through extra allocation of wheat. The allocations from the Central Pool are, however, only supplemental in nature and are made on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors.

[Translation]

Construction of Sewer Lines for Resettlement Colonies

360. SHRI BHARAT SINGH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of sewer lines was sanctioned for resettlement colonies and if so, whether the work of laying the sewer lines has not yet started in the resettlement colonies such as Mangolpuri, Sultanpuri and Nangloi No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 ; and

(b) the time by which this work is likely to be started as per the decision ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.