

**Adivasis and Scheduled Castes Houses
Washed away in Kerala**

1887. DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the houses constructed for the Adivasis and Scheduled Castes under the "One Lakh Housing Scheme" have been washed away by the recent floods in Kerala ;

(b) whether Government propose to give alternative dwelling units elsewhere to the affected persons since the houses were constructed at low lying areas ; and

(c) the action taken to provide relief to them ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR): (a) to (c). It has been reported by the Government of Kerala that a large number of people have been rendered homeless due to recent floods, landslides and sea erosion. The number of affected SC/Adivasis people has not been intimated. The amount of Central assistance is to be determined by the High Level Committee on Relief based upon the report of Central team, which visited the area. Pending final sanction of Central assistance for the purpose, ways and means advance of

Rs. 25 crores has been sanctioned to the State Government to meet expenses on flood relief measures including repairs of damaged houses.

**Sugar Demand and supply from Imports
and Indigenous Sources**

1888. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have resorted to import of sugar to meet the demand ;

(b) if so, total demand of sugar during April—July, 1985 and the extent to which this demand is met from imports and from indigenous production during the period ; and

(c) whether the recent rise in sugar prices is due to failure of Government to release adequate quantity of imported/ indigenous sugar during April—July, 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The monthly levy and freesale sugar both indigenous and imported released for internal consumption during April—July, 1985 is as under :

(lakh tonnes)

| Month | Levy | | Freesale | | Total |
|-------|------------|----------|------------|----------|-------|
| | Indigenous | Imported | Indigenous | Imported | |
| April | 2.88 | 0.25 | 3.70 | — | 6.83 |
| May | 3.13 | — | 3.60 | — | 6.73 |
| June | 3.40 | 0.23 | 2.50 | 1.25 | 7.38 |
| July | 3.13 | — | 2.00 | 1.75 | 6.88 |

(c) The major requirement of levy sugar was met from indigenous sugar during April to July, 1985. Free sale requirement for April & May, 1985 was met entirely from indigenous sugar. For June and July, 1985 imported sugar was released for freesale to the extent of 1.25 lakh tonnes and 1.75 lakh tonnes respectively. Certain quantity of imported sugar has been allocated to the State Governments for distribution through controlled channels at less than Rs. 6 per kg. whereas some quantity has been ear-marked for sale by Food Corporation of India against tender/auction. Initial infrastructure deficiencies and logistic problems had led to reduced off-take by the States and FCI in June, 1985. However, these problems have since been sorted out leading to larger off-take by the States and FCI in the month of July, 1985. With this streamlining it is expected that availability would improve as programmed resulting in reasonable prices to the consumers.

Disease Resistant Varieties of Rice

1889. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether IR-8 variety of rice has become vulnerable to diseases ;

(b) whether this is a general weakness of all hybrid varieties of grains ; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to evolve more disease resistant varieties of rice using local strains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir. There has not been any authentic report on the breakdown of resistance of variety IR-8 which has retained its reaction to different diseases.

(b) Not necessarily.

(c) Yes, Sir. Development of disease resistant varieties which is a continuous process is one of the most important programmes of rice improvement work in India. A number of disease resistant/tolerant varieties to some of the major diseases has been developed and released in India in recent years. Thus for Blast—Jaya, Vani, Improved Sona Rasi, IR-36, Swarnadhan ; for Bacterial leaf blight—IR—20, IR—36, Sasyasree ; for tungro virus—IR—20 ; for Sheath blight—Pankaj, Swarnadhan ; and for Brown spot—Rasi, IR—36 have been developed and released.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Food Articles

1890. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which the prices of food articles have gone up considerably in the country during the last few months ;

(b) whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to bring down the prices of food articles ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) The prices of some food articles have gone up during the last few months mainly because of the seasonality factor, production constraints and increase in freight rates.

(b) and (c) The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities particularly the ones which are in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and improved. Some commodities are imported to supplement domestic supplies. The export of essential commodities is regulated. Measures are being taken to enforce fiscal discipline and for keeping the aggregate liquidity