

(a) whether procurement price of copra has been fixed ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the coconut growers of Kerala have represented for a higher procurement price ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) The Government of India do not fix procurement price for copra. Procurement prices are fixed only for sugarcane, paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur, urad, mung, jute, groundnut-in-shell, soyabean, sunflower, seed, cotton, wheat, barley and mustard seed. The Government of Kerala has decided to intervene in the market and purchase copra at the price of Rs. 1200 per quintal as a measure of support to the coconut farmers. The Government of Kerala are continuously reviewing the price situation in order to offer feasible support to the coconut farmers.

Setting up of T.V. Centres in State Capitals

129. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up fullfledged TV Centres in all the State Capitals ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the names of States where programmes in regional languages are being produced and tele cast ; and

(d) the time by which the change over to regional programmes will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up fullfledged TV centres at the capitals of major States/Union

Territories during VII plan period and programme production facilities are envisaged to be provided at the remaining State/Union Territory Capitals except those of Lakshdweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(c) and (d) Programmes in regional languages are being produced and telecast at present in the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Union Territory of Delhi. Similar facilities are expected to be available in the remaining States/Union Territories except Lakshdweep and Dadar and Nagar Haveli, at the end fo VII Plan.

Financial Assistance to Kerala for Drinking Water

130. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have sought financial assistance for its scheme for providing drinking water in Scheduled Caste and other backward colonies ;

(b) whether the Central Government have released any amount ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government assists the states in providing safe drinking water in the rural areas under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARP). Under this programme, Kerala received Rs. 4557.41 lakhs as Central assistance in the Sixth Plan. For the current year 1985-86 the tentative allocation to Kerala is Rs. 1010 lakhs out of which Rs. 707 lakhs has already been released. The State Governments have been advised to earmark a percentage of funds under the ARP for the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and for the Tribal Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Tribes : the percentage being equal to

earmarking being done for these plans under the Minimum Needs Programme in the State Plans for rural water supply.

Gas Leakage at Ilac Ltd., at Chembur

131. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a major gas leakage from a storage tank at Ilac Ltd. a subsidiary of Calico at Chembur on 30 August, 1985, some persons died and over a lakh of persons were seriously affected ; and

(b) if so, details thereof stating the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the incident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) According to the report received from the State Government, as a result of leakage of chlorine gas from the storage tank of Ilac Ltd.—a subsidiary of Calico Ltd., Chembur, on 30th August, 1985, one person died and 139 were affected. It has been reported that chlorine gas leaked because of failure of a gasket. The State Government investigated the matter and necessary steps for neutralising the chlorine and providing medical aid to the affected were taken. The State Government have also prosecuted the Manager and the Occupier of the factory for offences under Factories Act, 1948 and Maharashtra Factory Rules, 1963. In all, 14 cases have been filed against the Manager and the Occupier.

[*Translation*]

Sale of Surplus Stocks of Wheat with FCI in Open Market

132. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to sell the surplus grains stocks of the

Food Corporation of India in the open market ;

(b) if so, whether surplus grains will be made available to the public at cheaper rates compared to those of the grains sold through Fair Price Shops ;

(c) if so, how much cheaper ; and

(d) if not, whether foodgrains are not available to the entire population and therefore these surplus grains are to be sold in open market to make them available to all ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (d) Government have decided to permit the Food Corporation of India to sell wheat in the open market at Rs. 175/- per quintal as against the Central issue price of Rs. 172/- per quintal for the public distribution system. This step is expected to lead to increased open market availability and a check on open market prices of wheat.

[*English*]

Malpractice in Transporting Paddy from Punjab and Haryana to Rajasthan

133. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India incurs heavy losses due to malpractices in transporting paddy from Punjab and Haryana to Rajasthan godowns for stocking and shelling ;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made by Government in the matter, if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the estimated annual loss incurred by Food Corporation of India on this account and the measures taken by Government to rectify the situation and to identify persons involved in malpractices in transporting paddy, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No,