

by the Government to avoid distress sale of foodgrains?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH):** (a) and (b). Procurement of foodgrains (wheat, paddy and coarse grain) is made by Food Corporation of India in collaboration with State Governments/their procuring agencies under price support operations to ensure that the farmers do not have to sell their produce below the support prices. All quantities of foodgrains conforming to the prescribed quality specifications (Fair Average Quality) voluntarily offered by farmers for sale at support price at the purchase centres operated by F.C.I. and State procuring agencies are purchased. However, the farmers are free to sell their produce at prices higher than the support price in the open market. It is the endeavour of the F.C.I., as also the State Government agencies that price support operations are so conducted that no farmer is compelled to sell F.A.Q. foodgrains at less than support price.

(c) The following steps are taken to prevent distress sale:—

- (i) The State Government notifies the areas and location of the purchase centres according to the need of price support operations;
- (ii) Wide publicity is given through Radio T.V., Press and distribution of pamphlets, etc. to make the farmers aware about the purchase centre being operated and about the specifications at which FCI/State agencies will be procuring the stocks. They are also advised to bring to stocks properly cleaned to the purchase centres to avoid rejection;
- (iii) TRIFED has been undertaking

procurement operations in tribal areas as an agent of the Food Corporation of India;

- (iv) Besides monitoring of procurement operations by Food Corporation of India and State Government officers, the market committees of the State Governments also keep a watch on the operations.

### **Supply of Palm-Oil in Madras City**

1631. **SHRI ANBARASU ERA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the short supply of palm-oil in Madras city;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the supply of palm-oil to the consumers in Madras city?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH):** (a) to (c). On account of non-availability of adequate stock of imported edible oil, no allocation of imported oils for supply through the Public Distribution System was made to States/U.Ts. during the month of December, 1990 and January, 1991. This has resulted in non-availability of palmolein in States/ U.Ts including Madras city. However, the allocation of palmolein has been resumed since February, 1991. Internal distribution of palmolein allocated by the Central Government is the responsibility of the State Government/U.T. Administration concerned.

[*Translation*]

### **Opening of Colleges in Outer Delhi**

1632. **SHRI TARIF SINGH:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: