

[English]

Increase in Levy Price of Wheat, Rice and Bajra (millet)

3077. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently enhanced the levy prices of certain commodities ;

(b) if so, the position of increase of levy prices of wheat, rice, bajra since 1982 to 1985 (latest), year-wise ; and

(c) whether these have been adopted by all the public procurement agencies in all the States and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The procurement/Support price of wheat, paddy and bajra from 1982-83 to 1985-86 marketing seasons are as under :

	(Rs./per quintal)				
	Wheat	Paddy		Bajra	
	Com- mon	Fine	S.Fine		
1982-83	142/-	122/-	126/-	130/-	118/-
1983-84	151/-	132/-	136/-	140/-	124/-
1984-85	152/-	137/-	141/-	145/-	130/-
1985-86	157/-	Not announced.		Not announced.	

(c) Yes, Sir.

Agricultural Development Programme for Orissa

3078. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally Sponsored Agricultural Development Programmes proposed to be implemented during the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(b) the programme proposed to be implemented in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), it is proposed to implement a number of Centrally Sponsored Agricultural Programmes primarily for building up institutional frame-work in the nature of pace setters involving production, demonstration, input supply, etc. The proposals will be given final shape after the Seventh Plan is cleared by the National Development Council.

(b) The proposals for implementation in the State of Orissa under the Centrally Sponsored Sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan are likely to cover the major activities in the field of agriculture and allied sectors viz. crop production, seed production and distribution, measures for plant protection, horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, dairy, extension services, etc.

Transportation delays in supply of Rice to Mizoram

3079. SHRI LAL DUHOMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether large quantity of rice allotted for Mizoram used to remain undespached for a long time from the B. G. Points of Gauhati and New Bongaigaon causing starvation to the people of Mizoram ;

(b) whether the carrying contractors are very often asked to collect rice from places other than Gauhati where Mizoram Government do not have carrying contracts causing great inconvenience ;

(c) dates of railway wagons booked for transportation of rice / wheat from New Bongaigaon and Gauhati and dates of the arrival of those wagons at the destination at Silchar between December 1984 and February 1985 ; and

(d) measures taken/proposed to be taken for better coordination in the transportation of rice/wheat/sugar through Railways and Roadways to enable timely and regular delivery at the destination i.e. Silchar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Normally foodgrains are supplied to Mizoram from Food Corporation of India's depot at Silchar. In view of the limited carrying capacity of the Railways over the Luming-Badarpur Section, and in order to supplement rail movement, the movement of foodgrains by road from Gauhati and other broad gauge points is sometimes resorted to. Mizoram Government has recently agreed to lift 2000 tonnes rice a month from Gauhati and other broad gauge terminals. The balance quantity of rice is supplied from Silchar depot. Food Corporation of India has also appointed contractors for moving foodgrains from Gauhati and New Bongaigaon to Silchar.

(c) Date-wise details of railway wagons booked from New Bongaigaon and Gauhati and their date-wise arrival at Silchar are not readily available. The following number of wagons were released at Silchar between December, 1984 and February, 1985 :—

Month	No. of wagons released		
	Rice	Wheat	Total
December, 1984	456	295	711
January, 1985	333	323	656
February, 1985	198	342	540

(d) For a better co-ordination in the transportation of foodgrains and sugar, instructions have been issued to allow Mizoram Government to lift rice stocks from Gauhati and other broad gauge points by road ; to arrange inter-depot movement in consultation with the Railways ; to explore the possibility of moving foodgrains through river route to Karimganj for supplies to Mizoram. Railways have been requested to augment despatch of foodgrains to North Eastern region and the position is being constantly monitored.

Distress sale of Ginger in Mizoram

3080. **SHRI LAL DUHOMA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the existing average wholesale and retail prices of ginger in Delhi, Calcutta and Gauhati ;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a distress sale of ginger in Mizoram as a result of which ginger growers have incurred a heavy loss ;

(c) if so, reasons for fall in the prices ; and

(d) action taken to help ginger growers of Mizoram to find better markets ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) There is fluctuation in the price of ginger in terminal and retail markets. However, the wholesale rate of ginger per quintal depending upon quality ranges between Rs. 180/- and Rs. 200/- in Calcutta ; Rs. 200/- and Rs. 250/- in Delhi ; and Rs. 100/- and Rs. 120/- in Gauhati. The retail price in Delhi is ruling between Rs. 3/- and Rs. 5/- per Kg.

(b) and (c). Higher production, larger marketed surplus and market distortions are causing fall in prices of ginger in Mizoram. In the open market, the farmers are reportedly being offered lower prices than the price paid by the Mizoram Cooperative Marketing Federation (MIZOFED).

(d) In order to help ginger growers, the proposal of the Mizoram Administration for market intervention operation has been agreed to. The intervention operations are being carried out by the implementing agency, namely the Mizoram Cooperative Marketing Federation. The scheme envisages that ginger of fair average quality would be purchased at Rs. 200/- per quintal at Aizwal by MIZOFED to provide market support to ginger growers. To begin with, MIZOFED has been authorised to purchase up to 25,000 quintals,