

Decline in paddy production in Kerala

3017. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the production of paddy in Kerala is declining due to the high cost of cultivation;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide special assistance to Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) The production of paddy in Kerala has not shown perceptible increase due primarily to diversion of area to plantation crops. The cost of cultivation of paddy in Kerala does not appear to have had any appreciable impact on paddy production in the State.

For increasing the production and productivity of rice in Kerala, a Central Sector Scheme on Minikit cum Community Nurseries of rice including propagation of new technology is already under implementation in the State. There is no proposal to take up any further scheme in the State during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of warehouses in U.P. by F.C.I.

3018. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sites have been selected for the warehouses of five thousand ton storage capacity to be set up by Food Corporation of India at Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the time by which the process of acquisition of land is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Corporation is in the process of selecting suitable sites at Pithoragarh and Almora for construction of godowns. Land acquisition proceedings would be initiated after the sites are selected.

[*English*]

Fall in growth rate in agriculture

3019. SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate in agriculture has fallen to per cent, which is for the first time lower than the rate of increase in population;

(b) if so, the reasons for this phenomenon; and

(c) the strategy proposed to be adopted to reverse this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Agricultural production during 1984-85 was affected due to adverse weather conditions faced by many States. Such year to year variations in agriculture are quite frequent in the country. However, the long-term production growth rate in agriculture is higher than the growth rate in population.

(c) The strategy proposed to be adopted for increasing the production and productivity of various agricultural crops during the Seventh Plan include:

(i) Maximisation of productivity in irrigated areas.

(ii) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs like technology, seeds, fertilizer, implements, plant protection chemicals, credit, etc.

- (iii) Increase in area under high-yielding varieties.
- (iv) Production of certified, foundation and breeders seed in sufficient amount to achieve replacement rate of 20% in self-pollinated crops and 100% in hybrids.
- (v) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures.
- (vi) Increasing the intensity of cropping through double multiple and inter-cropping.
- (vii) Intensification of research and extension efforts so as to extend the benefits of new technology to more farmers.
- (viii) Improving the efficiency of a gricultural operations through promotion of community approach.
- (ix) Land development and water harvesting mainly through a watershed approach.
- (x) Development and dissemination of dryland farming technology.
- (xi) Adequate risk cover through crop insurance.
- (xii) Adoption of an appropriate pricing policy for Agricultural crops etc.

Official Secret Act

3020. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6321 on 13 May, 1985 regarding Official Secret Act and State :

(a) the recommendations made by the Second Press Commission which are under consideration;

(b) whether any final decision has been arrived at; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) All the recommendations made by the Second Press Commission including those relating to the changes in Official Secrets Act are under the consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Wheat requirements of roller flour Mills in Maharashtra

3021. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK ; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the roller flour mills in Maharashtra are finding it difficult to obtain their wheat requirements in spite of the record procurement of wheat by the Government agencies during the current marketing season; and

(b) whether Government will meet the increased demand of Maharashtra before the ensuing festivals ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra is being allotted wheat for the roller flour mills upto their full licensed capacity. There have been some complaints about non-supply of full quotas of wheat to some of the mills by the Food Corporation of India due to various operational reasons and in such cases, necessary extensions for lifting of wheat have been granted.

Involvement of private builders in Construction Project by DDA

3022. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is considering a proposal to involve private builders in some of its housing construction projects;