

1977-78 was announced by the Government on the 13th April, 1977. The salient features of the policy are as under:

- (i) The procurement price of wheat of fair average quality has been revised upwards from Rs. 105 to Rs. 110 per quintal for all varieties. All quantities offered for sale by the farmers at this price will be purchased by the Government.
 - (ii) The issue price of wheat for stocks released from Central Pool for Public distribution system and for issue to the Roller Flour Mills for production of wheat products has been retained at Rs. 125 per quintal.
 - (iii) All restrictions on movement of wheat from one State to another have been removed.
 - (iv) Movement of wheat products will continue to be free throughout the country.
 - (v) The ban on the purchase of wheat in the open market by the Roller Flour Mills would remain in force.
 - (vi) The State Governments have been advised to discontinue levy on producers and traders and to procure wheat by way of price support.
 - (vii) The incentive bonus scheme of wheat procurement has been discontinued.
 - (viii) Procurement targets for wheat have not been fixed this year as the procurement operations will be by way of support and it is not feasible to estimate the extent to which support operations may be necessary.
- (c) A total quantity of 41.92 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured as on 10th June, 1977.

Import of Milk Powder

164. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a gult in milk product factories in our country;
- (b) if so, the action taken to remove the gult; and
- (c) whether milk powder is being imported from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no commercial import of milk powder from any country. However, skim milk powder is being received under various aid programmes.

Sandalwood

165. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the States in which sandalwood is available in the country; and
- (b) whether the Government are trying to introduce this in other States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) Sandalwood is naturally available in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and also occurs sporadically in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Government is trying to introduce Sandalwood in other States as well. The States in which trials have been undertaken are Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal.