

However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training organised Orientation programmes for Principals/Heads of the Higher Secondary Schools Delhi affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education on the new pattern of school education. The objectives of these programmes were to acquaint the Principals/Heads of Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi with the new pattern of school education, its academic and organisational implications.

Fixation of Procurement Price of Paddy

3662. **SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is an admitted fact that the procurement price of Paddy should be fixed in accordance with the prices of related materials utilised to produce paddy,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the difference between the production cost of paddy in Government farms and price of paddy procurement by Government from farmers; and

(d) whether Government have decided to take any measure to save crores of farmers from inconsistent procurement price of paddy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The procurement price of paddy is fixed by the Government, taking into account, the recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission, the views expressed by the Chief Ministers as well as the cost of production, which includes the cost of inputs. Before making its recommendation, the Agricultural Prices Commission also hold discussions with the panel of farmers comprising of Members of Parliament and knowledgeable farmers from different States.

(c) The farms of the State Farms Corporation of India produce paddy primarily for seed purposes, the cost of which comes to Rs. 79.38 per quintal whereas the procurement price of coarse variety paddy for 1977-78 marketing season has been fixed at Rs. 77 per quintal.

(d) As indicated under (a) and (b) above, the prices of paddy notified by the Government is arrived at after due consideration. Necessary steps are also taken by Government to purchase all paddy of fair average quality offered by the producers at the procurement prices so as to prevent prices from falling to the uneconomic levels and to protect the interests of the producers.

Use of Phosphatic Fertiliser for Groundnut

3663. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch any scheme to encourage use of phosphatic fertilisers for production of groundnut;

(b) whether Government propose to bring some more irrigated areas under groundnut cultivation under irrigated conditions; and

(c) if so, the details of Government's scheme in this regard as well as the names of the States in which this scheme is going to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) A vigorous campaign has been launched by the major groundnut-growing States during 1977-78 to popularise the application of phosphatic fertilisers to groundnut crop, as it promotes root development and thus helps the crop to tide over moisture stress conditions.

(b) Yes Sir.