

Move to avoid Glut of Rice

2983. SHRI S. R. REDDY;
SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have convened any Conference of representatives of all the States to work out a plan of action to avoid glut of rice in some pockets and shortage and consequent high prices in others;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the rice producing States like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had been complaining about rice glut and lack of storage space while in northern States the price of rice is shooting up; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) No such complaint has been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Adequate storage capacity is available in both the States for storing the procured grain. In the Northern States, by and large, the prices of only fine and super-fine rice have been showing a rising trend. It is not Government's policy to bring down the prices of these varieties of rice because a consumer who chooses to purchase these varieties of rice must be prepared to pay the open market price dictated by laws of demand and supply. Movement of rice and paddy is now free throughout the country and Government expect that laws of demand and supply would even out any significant gaps in the prices and availability of rice in different parts of the country.

Stock Position of Sugar

2984. SHRI DAJIBA DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stocks of sugar are larger, if so, the stock position of Sugar;

(b) if so, what is the proposal to sell the sugar at home and in foreign markets; and

(c) whether there is proposal to give subsidy to Sugar Mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The stocks of sugar with the factories, as on 22nd, July during the current season 1977-78, are estimated at 43.13 lakh tonnes as against 22.70 lakh tonnes on the same date in 1976-77.

(b) The internal consumption of sugar in 1977-78 season is estimated at about 45.5 lakh tonnes as against 37.5 lakh tonnes in 1976-77. It has also been decided to export 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar, which is India's quota in effect under the International Sugar Agreement, during the calendar year 1978.

(c) The surplus availability of sugar and the holding cost thereof, along with other relevant considerations, will be kept in view while deciding the policy for the next sugar year 1978-79.

मछानिवेध से अनुमानित हानि

2985. श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह :
श्री पी० राजगोपाल नायडू :
श्री गंगाबन्त सिंह :

क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण और संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मछानिवेध लागू करने के कारण 1978-79 के दौरान सरकारी राजस्व में अनुमानित हानि क्या है; और