

(c) and (d). Preparatory steps such as acquisition of land, inviting of tenders; Award of works etc. are in progress in respect of IDA assisted programmes. Construction works are also in progress in respect of EEC assisted works. The Australian Government offer is under consideration.

**Report of Panel to review
Sugar Policy**

50. SHRI D. N. TIWARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet appointed to review sugar policy after the decontrol of sugar has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The Sugar Policy after decontrol was reviewed by the Committee. For the present there will be no change from the full decontrol conditions of August 1978 and it was decided that suitable legislation should be undertaken for taking over of management of sugar factories which either do not start crushing by 15th November, 1978, or, keep cane arrears un-paid beyond a level of 10 per cent of the price payable for cane purchased in 1977-78. Accordingly, the Sugar Undertakings (Taking over of Management) Ordinance, 1978 was promulgated on 9th November, 1978.

Subsidy on Paddy

51. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI SARAT KAR:
SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAIN:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN
KADANNAPPALLI:

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

(a) whether he held a meeting with the representatives from the Northern

and Western States and with a number of Chief Ministers who argued for a subsidy on paddy; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the suggestions and the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). In the process of determining the kharif prices discussions were held with the Chief Ministers/Food Ministers/Agriculture Ministers of Paddy producing States. While all of them wanted the issue price of rice, from Central Pool, to remain unchanged, the suggestions given with regard to the procurement price of paddy were as under:

	Rs. per Qt.
Uttar Pradesh	84.00
Punjab	90.00
Haryana	91.00
Orissa	
Karnataka	95.00
Andhra Pradesh	120.00
Tamil Nadu	137.00
Kerala	120.00
Madhya Pradesh	100.00
Gujarat	
Maharashtra	129.00
Assam	112.50
West Bengal	
Himachal Pradesh	82.00
Jammu & Kashmir	

After taking into consideration the suggestions made by the representatives of these State Governments and the recommendations made by Agricultural Prices Commission, it was decided by the Government of India that the procurement prices for paddy for the marketing season 1978-79 be fixed at Rs. 85/- per qtl. (as against Rs. 77/- per qtl. in 1977-78 season) for the coarse variety and the procurement prices for other varieties of paddy may be derived from the price of the coarse variety on the basis of traditional differentials in the various States.