

may allow him to retain the accommodation, in special circumstances, for a period not exceeding six months, on payment of twice the standard licence fee under FR. 45A or twice the pooled standard licence fee under FR. 45A, whichever is higher.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2775/78]

(c) No officer has been formally allowed to retain the Government accommodation 6 months beyond the concessional period admissible under the rules. The officers concerned are retaining the Government accommodation unauthorisedly and eviction proceedings under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1971 have been initiated against them.

(d) There is only one such officer. His allotment stands cancelled and eviction proceedings have been initiated against him.

Contract labour in handling operations of F.C.I.

70. DR. P. V. PERIASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the extent of engaging contract labour in handling operations of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the savings effected; and

(c) the number of labour cooperatives that have come forward in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The Food Corporation of India have abolished the contract labour system in 99 depots.

(b) There have been no savings.

(c) The handling and transport work has been entrusted to labour co-operatives at 9 depots.

Procurement Price of Wheat

71. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat procurement price for the coming rabi season is to be announced before the sowing starts;

(b) if so, whether the new procurement price will take into account the extensive damage caused to wheat fields by recent floods and increased cultivation costs because of it; and

(c) whether parity is being maintained between procurement prices of wheat, rice and other grains and the general price level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The Agricultural Prices Commission is expected to submit its report on price and procurement policy for wheat for the coming rabi season (1979-80) in the near future. Thereafter, the Government will announce the procurement price after taking into consideration, the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and the views of the State Governments.

(b) While recommending the price, the Commission takes into consideration the data on cost of production of individual crops, production prospects and the likely trend of open market prices and also a reasonable margin to the producer.

(c) Although the Commission does not adopt a mechanical parity approach, it does keep in view *inter alia* the inter crop price relationships as they emerge from time to time in the context of supply-demand situation of different crops.