

	1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	2		32
Tripura	—		3
Uttar Pradesh	—		12
West Bengal	N.A.		N.A.
Andamans	(a)		1
Arunachal Pradesh	—		—
Delhi	—		(a)
Goa, Daman & Diu	(a)		3
Lakshadweep	(a)		1
Mizoram	—		(a)
Pondicherry	(a)		2

(a) Below 500 .

N.A.—Not Available.

Purchase of Onions by N.A.F.E.D.

1604. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NAFED has warned the Union Government that in case the Government do not make up the losses incurred by NAFED, it would stop purchasing onions from the onion-growers at revised rates; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) NAFED had requested the Government for financial assistance for purchase of onions under the price support operation. While doing so, NAFED had indicated its inability to bear the losses itself and had brought to the notice of the Government the fact that unless financial assistance was provided by the Government, NAFED would have to suspend their purchases.

(b) The Government had taken a decision to provide financial support to NAFED for purchase of onions under price support operation. NAFED had therefore resumed the purchase of onions.

News Item "23 lakh tonnes paddy rotting with FCI"

1605. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "23 lakh tonnes paddy rotting with FCI" published in the *Financial Express* (Bombay edition) of the 30th May, 1980;

(b) if so, how far the allegations made in the said news about lying of paddy stocks in the open godown exposed to ravages of weather, damage to the stocks on account of being unshelled for long and the apathy of the millers for shelling it into rice are correct; and

(c) to what extent damage/loss has already taken place and what steps are being taken to save the paddy from further damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While it is obligatory for the Corporation to purchase all the quantities of paddy offered under the Price Support scheme, the covered storage capacity available with FCI in Punjab and Haryana is not sufficient to keep all the stocks in covered godowns. The covered storage space is mostly utilised for the storage of rice and sugar etc. which cannot be stored outside.

During the last two years a total quantity of 40.36 lakh tonnes of paddy has been purchased in Punjab and Haryana. As on 1-5-1980, a quantity of 15.11 lakh tonnes and 69,000

tonnes is stored in CAP storage in Punjab and Haryana, respectively. CAP storage is safe and scientific and it is well looked after by technical staff employed for the purpose. It is, therefore, not correct to say that paddy stocks lying in the open under CAP system of storage are exposed to revages of whether. In spite of precautions, some losses do take place due to reasons beyond the control of FCI, e.g. natural calamities, untimely heavy rains, cyclones, floods etc.

There has been some resistance on the part of Rice millers of some areas to undertake shelling of FCI paddy in spite of the fact that FCI has been sanctioning milling rates keeping in view the outturn ratios of rice and expenses incurred by the millers etc. However, millers are demanding still higher rates and approximately 6.39 lakh tonnes is still lying uncontracted.

(c) A total quantity of 29,286 tonnes paddy is reported to be affected and salvaging of the affected stocks is in progress. The actual position will be known at the end of operation. A quantity of 570 tonnes has so far been declared as damaged.

In view of drought conditions prevailing in Eastern, Central and Southern States besides Uttar Pradesh, efforts have been made to utilise the milling capacity in those areas by moving paddy from Punjab. A quantity of about 60,000 tonnes of paddy has been moved from Punjab between November, 1979 and May, 1980. Efforts are continuing to get the balance paddy stocks contracted early. Other steps like requisitioning of milling capacity are also being contemplated.

Linking of Indian Satellite Communication System with International System

1606. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to link the Indian Satellite

Communication System with the International System;

(b) if so, when the linkage will take place; and

(c) the benefit expected from the linkage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Central Social Welfare Board

1607. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been initiated to reconstitute the Central Social Welfare Board;

(b) if so, the constitution of the new Board; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) According to the Resolution constituting the present Board the tenure prescribed is upto 30th September, 1980.

Re-Examination of Withdrawn Text Books

1608. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been some cases in the Janata Government that certain text books and history text books were withdrawn from the school syllabus;