

(b) Skim milk powder and butter oil supplied to the Greater Calcutta

Milk Supply Scheme during the last two years are as under:

(Figures in M.T.)

Year	Skim Milk Powder	Butter Oil
1979-80	5906.780	1564.329
1980-81	5104.360	1278.107

(c) No complaint was received from the State Government regarding supply of skim milk powder and butter oil.

arranges adequate supply of food-grains from the Central Pool for issue through public distribution system so as to keep a check on open market prices of foodgrains.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of rice vis-a-vis price rise

Import of Wheat

4734. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

4735. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export rice in the current year;

(a) whether the Food Secretary visited the USA to negotiate the deal for further purchase of wheat;

(b) if so, the expected quantity of export;

(b) if so, the quantity expected to be imported and when is the shipment like to reach India;

(c) whether the export drive will boost the domestic price; and

(c) whether the deal has been or is being made at a Government level or with private parties and what role has been played by the Indian Embassy in Washington in the matter of negotiating the deal; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to stop the possible rise in the prices of rice?

(d) whether any quality tests are conducted before shipment, if so, through which agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). During the current year, Government propose to export about 6 lakh tonnes of rice besides basmati rice which is on the Open General Licence.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). A three-member team headed by the Food Secretary visited USA towards the end of June, 1981 and finalized the deal for import of 15.15 lakh tones of wheat from USA for deliveries during 15-8-1981 to 31-1-1982.

(c) and (d). Only such quantities of rice have been allowed to be exported as are not likely to endanger the public distribution system in the country or unduly push up the prices internally. Moreover, Government

(c) Purchases have been made from nine US Grain firms whose names appeared in the approved list of United States Department of Agriculture. Supply Wing of the Indian Embassy in Washington was fully associated with the deal.

(d) Yes, Sir. Quality of wheat shipped from USA is inspected by the US Federal/State Inspectors at the time of loading, under the overall supervision of the US Federal Grain Inspection Service. As a measure of abundant caution, we have also deputed our technical staff to USA to oversee the inspection work on shipments for India.

Food for Work Programme in Andhra Pradesh

4736. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of wheat and rice allotted to Andhra Pradesh Food for Work Programme during the period from April, 1981 to November, 1981;

(b) the quantity actually delivered;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sent any proposal for allotment of more quantity of wheat and rice for the remaining months of current financial year;

(d) if so, the quantity asked for; and

(e) the decision taken by Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) A quantity of 15,750 MTs of rice was allotted to Andhra Pradesh for implementation of National Rural Employment Programme earlier called

as Food for Work Programme during the current year.

(b) The State Government are reported to have lifted a total quantity of 11875 MTs of rice so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

Low procurement price for Wheat and Rice

4737. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed low prices for procurement of paddy and wheat this year;

(b) whether this will lead to import of more foodgrains and result in shortage supply of foodgrain for public distribution and the National Rural Employment Programme Scheme (NREP); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Import of wheat has been undertaken mainly for augmenting the reserves with the Government. During the 1981-82 wheat marketing season, a quantity of 6.6 million tonnes was procured upto 11th December, 1981 as against 5.9 million tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last year. Out of 1981-82 kharif crop, a quantity of 3.6 million tonnes of rice has been procured upto 17th December, 1981 as against 3.3 million tonnes procured