

**Reported disappearance of wheat and wheat products from market**

10796. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat and wheat products have disappeared from the open market following the announcement of the new issue price of wheat for the public distribution system and the roller flour mills ;

(b) if so, whether the grain dealers either quoted prices higher than the present market price or stated that they had no stock of either wheat or any of the wheat products ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to make them available in the market and what action has been taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No such reports have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

**Study on consolidation of agricultural holdings**

10797. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a case study of consolidation of agricultural holdings in the country with special reference to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh has revealed that it has led to a significant reduction in the cost of cultivation, increased cropping intensity and introduced a more remunerative cropping pattern ;

(b) if so, whether the study was concentrated only to Punjab and Haryana and not to other States ; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the study and whether studies will also be made in other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARINATHA MISRA) : (a) and (b). A case study to evaluate consolidation of holdings in the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh was undertaken at the instance of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. Another study to evaluate consolidation of holdings in Orissa and Bihar is currently being done.

(c) The main features of the study are given in the attached statement.

**Statement**

*Note indicating the salient features of the Consolidation of Holdings in India—A case study in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab*

The study was confined to three districts in each of the two States : Ferozepur, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur in Punjab and Muzaffarnagar, Deoria and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh.

As a result of consolidation, 80 per cent of the cultivators got single chaks as against 1.9 per cent held before Consolidation. Other principal benefits of consolidation are as follows :

Significant reduction in cost of cultivation, increased cropping intensity, introduction of a more remunerative cropping pattern, reduction of dependence on share-croppers, greater investment on the development of agricultural infrastructure like mechanization and minor irrigation. Before consolidation, due to scattered holdings, some of the cultivators were forced to let out some of their plots to others on a share-cropping basis. There has been a decrease in the pattern of share-cropping as a result of consolidation. The programme of consolidation has contributed significantly to the development of land—

95 per cent of the respondents felt that the investment in land, machinery and other assets had increased after consolidation so as to increase productivity.

The investment has resulted in capital formation and building up of infrastructure facilities.