

Procurement and Import of Foodgrains

157. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) procurement of foodgrains in 1981 and 1982, and whether the rate of procurement is falling ;

(b) import of foodgrains and the foreign exchange involved in the last two years;

(c) desired buffer stock with the Central Government to keep steady supply of the foodgrains to the people;

(d) whether there is gap between the actual stock and the desired stock/optimum stock; and

(e) if so, steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) Total procurement of foodgrains which was 12.31 million tonnes out of 1980-81 crop, increased to 15.21 million tonnes out of 1981-82 crop. This level of procurement was the highest, surpassing the earlier record of 14.46 million tonnes from 1978-79 crop. From current crop of 1982-83, procurement of Kharif cereals as reported upto 15.2.1983 is 5.65 million tonnes as against 5.75 million tonnes procured on the same date last year.

(b) During 1981-82, the Government of India contracted for the import of 15.15 lakh tonnes of wheat from U.S.A. and 7.50 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia. The foreign exchange involved in these imports was about U.S. dollars 279.9 million and Australian dollars 121.4 million. During 1982-83, the Government of India has contracted for import of 39.50 lakh tonnes of wheat from U.S.A. at a total FOB value of U.S. dollars 654.778 million.

(c) As per policy of the Government, a buffer stock of 12 million tonnes of foodgrains is required to be maintained over and above the operational stocks ranging between 3.5 to 8.8 million tonnes at different dates of the year,

(d) and (e). The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on 1.1.1983 is about 12.7 million tonnes as compared to 11.5 million tonnes on the same date last year. The present level of stock being below the required level, efforts are being made to build up the stocks by maximising procurement, regulated release of foodgrains from the Central pool and imports to the extent considered feasible.

Assessment of crop loss due to drought and floods

158. SHRI A. K. ROY :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

SHRI SHANTUBHAI PATEL :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of damage of crops due to drought and flood in 1981 and 1982;

(b) if so, facts in details in the country as a whole and also the State-wise break up;

(c) whether the eastern States are becoming the worst victim of drought and flood in the last two consecutive years; and

(d) if so, reasons thereof and the steps taken thereon.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.