

Remunerative Prices to Farmers

7081. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of farmers at Chandigarh have protested against the failure of Government both at Centre and in State to ensure remunerative prices for their produce besides, "uncalled for" increase in the power rates and the market fee ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the action Government propose to ensure remunerative prices for their produce and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government propose to approach Food Corporation of India to enter the market to purchase the agricultural produce and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware of a gherao by the Bhartiya Kisan Union around the Punjab Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh for the acceptance of their demands which *include, inter-alia,*

(1) withdrawal of hike in electricity charges for agricultural consumers, notified by Punjab State Electricity Board in October, 1982.

(2) Withdrawal of producer's cess of one percent levied on agricultural producers in Punjab since August, 1982.

In this connection, it may be stated that the agricultural price policy adopted by the Government is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. As for the specific demands concerning withdrawal of hike in electricity charges for agricultural consumers and producer's cess of one percent levied on agricultural producers, these subjects concern the State Government.

(c) The Food Corporation of India and the State agencies undertake purchase operations in respect of wheat, paddy and rice. The Food Corporation of India was also designated as the official agency for undertaking purchase operations wherever necessary in case of bajra during the current marketing season. In the case of barley, NAFED and NCCF have been designated as official agencies for providing marketing support. NAFED has generally been designated as the agency for carrying out price support operations for oilseeds, pulses, potatoes and onions in coordination/cooperation with the State cooperative agencies. Support operations in respect of cotton are undertaken by the Cotton Corporation of India and the designated State agencies. In the case of jute, price support operations are undertaken by the Jute, Corporation of India.

Development of Fisheries in Kerala

7082. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop fisheries on scientific lines in Kerala ; and

(b) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) Some of the important steps taken to develop fisheries on Scientific lines in Kerala are :

(i) establishment of Fish Farmers' Development Agencies for farming in Tanks/Ponds,

(ii) development of major and minor fishing harbours and small landing centres for post harvest handling,

(iii) development of Brackish water fish farms and hatcheries for fish and prawn culture,