

convert the letter of intent into import authorisation for import of vessels is examined on merit and necessary action like suspension/cancellation of charter permits and invocation of bank guarantee is taken. Permits for nine vessels were suspended/cancelled for the failure of the charterers to acquire ownership vessels. Bank Guarantees of Rs. 12 lakhs were invoked out of which Rs. six lakhs have been received.

Permission to Kerala to Purchase Rice from Andhra Pradesh

1033. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have allowed Kerala Government to procure 40,000 tonnes of levy free rice from Madhya Pradesh for distribution in Kerala;

(b) whether Government are aware that the preference of people in Kerala is for parboiled Andhra rice;

(c) whether Kerala Government have brought the aforesaid preference to the notice of Union Government; and

(d) whether Government will allow Kerala to procure rice from Andhra Pradesh instead of Madhya Pradesh and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consumers in Kerala prefer parboiled rice.

(c) The Government of Kerala informed that they wanted to purchase parboiled rice from Andhra Pradesh because of consumer preference and lower transport cost.

(d) Permission for Inter-State purchase of rice is given as a special case

after reviewing the supply demand conditions of the surplus States. Since a substantial quantity of rice has moved from Andhra Pradesh to Kerala and other States through normal trade channels, bulk purchase by Kerala Government from Andhra Pradesh was not considered desirable.

Expansion of Marketing Operation by Iffco in Orissa and other Eastern States

1034. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative (IFFCO) has not so far taken any effective steps to strengthen and expand its operations in Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government will instruct IFFCO to boost its sales in the Eastern Region States and expand its services; and

(c) the number of co-operative societies brought by the IFFCO under its 5-year programme undertaken in collaboration with the National Co-operative Development Corporation in the comparatively backward areas of Orissa to popularise consumption of fertilizers for increased production by providing financial assistance in the form of margin money and subsidy for agricultural implements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) IFFCO has been taking effective steps to expand its operations in the Eastern Region.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the NCDC-IFFCO sponsored scheme for establishment of Cooperative Farmers' Service Centres, 100 Cooperative societies in Orissa State, are to be assisted over a period of three years commencing from 1983-84. Against this target, 16 societies have been indentified and approved for implementing the scheme.