

Prospects of Procurement of Rice and other Foodgrains due to Flood and Drought in the Country

1108. SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent the flood and drought conditions in various States have affected the prospects of procurement targets of foodgrains by the Government ;

(b) whether the target of 4.3 million tonnes fixed by the Agricultural Price Commission will be achieved ; and

(c) what is the present position with regard to the rice stocks and what are further prospects of procurement of rice from the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The precise estimates of the damage caused to foodgrains by flood and drought in different States are not available. Even though the crop has been affected by drought and flood in some parts of the country, efforts are being made to achieve the procurement target of 4.3 million tonnes of rice recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission for 1971-72 season. The physical stocks of rice with the Central and State Governments at the end of October, 1971, were about 16 lakh tonnes.

Disposal of garbage by C.M.D.A.

1109. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state whether the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority is taking any specific measure for garbage disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : Yes, The Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority has provided 30 trucks, 45 auto-engines, 2 Bulldozers, 2 pay-loaders for dumping operations, railway wagons and other equipments like shunters, etc. to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation for efficient operation of collection and disposal system within the city limits. All 34 municipalities in the Calcutta Metropolitan District are being provided with one tractor and two trailers each. For

Howrah Municipality, 41 five-ton trucks have been given. Howrah Municipality has also been given Rs. 37.50 lakhs for repairs to existing trucks and construction of a garage.

Fall in percentage of working cultivators and increase in agriculture labour

1110. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the 1971 Census, percentage of Working Cultivators has fallen down from 54 per cent in 1961 to 43 per cent in 1971 and agricultural labour has increased from 16.71 per cent in 1961 to 25.8 per cent in 1971 of the total working population ; and

(b) the reasons for the same and the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The percentage of cultivators and agricultural labour to total workers work out as under, according to the available information under the 1961 and 1971 Censuses so far :

	1961 Census	1971 Census (Provisional)
Percentage of Cultivators to total workers	52.8	42.9
Percentage of agricultural labour to total workers.	16.7	25.8

Due to difference in the definition of 'worker' followed in the population Censuses of 1961 and 1971, the above figure, are not strictly comparable. For example, part-time workers in agriculture like housewives, students etc. who were shown as workers in 1961 will be shown basically as non-workers in 1971 according to their main activity. It is also likely that the procedure followed for the compilation of data relating to economic activity in the 1961 Census resulted in some bias in favour of persons being shown as cultivators. When the 1971 data are fully processed and analysed, it may be possible to draw some definite conclusions.