

Target for procurement of next kharif Crop

4421. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set up for procurement of next kharif crops for different States;

(b) the procurement machinery set up or proposed for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to mop up the total amount marketable surplus of foodgrains, including rice; and

(d) if so, the policy proposed and the machinery likely to be set up for procurement of foodgrains during the next kharif crops season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) It is too early to estimate the likely production of kharif foodgrains and to indicate the Statewise targets of procurement during the ensuing kharif season.

(b) to (d). The decision to take over the wholesale trade in rice with effect from kharif 1973-74 was announced in the last Session of Parliament. Operational details are now being discussed with the State Governments concerned. Final decisions are expected to be taken before the crop is harvested.

Decision by Karmahom Conference to raise surcharge on currency adjustment

4422. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karmahom Conference has decided to effect a steep rise in currency adjustment surcharge which will make the country's imports more costly;

(b) whether a surcharge on export cargo is also being proposed by the Conference; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) It is presumed that the reference is to India-UK/Continental Conference which has increased the currency adjustment surcharge from 11.11 per cent to 27.85 per cent in respect of Eastward shipments on vessels commencing to load at individual North Continental Ports on and after 7th August, 1973. As regards, the shipments from U.K. and Western Italy, the surcharge remains at 11.11 per cent. The Conference has increased this surcharge on the grounds of substantial revaluation in the Continental currencies since the devaluation of the U.S. dollar in February last. As a result of increased currency adjustment surcharge from 11.11 per cent to 27.85 per cent, imports will become costlier from European ports in the Conference sphere other than those in Western Italy and U.K.

(b) No Sir, the currency adjustment surcharge in the west-bound trade from India to U.K./Continent has not been increased and remains at 11.11 per cent.

(c) Does not arise.

Mixing edible oil with reprocessed spindle oil

4423. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that adulterators are mixing edible oil with re-processed spindle oil which is injurious to health; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent adulteration of edible oils?