

Views on Procurement Price of Paddy

158. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:
SHRI BIREN ENGTI:
SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced the procurement price of coarse variety of paddy for the year 1974-75 recently;

(b) if so, whether the price fixed by the Union Government was not approved by the Chief Ministers and A.P.C. and they had demanded more than what the Union Government has fixed;

(c) if so, whether the R.B.I. had warned the Government that if the procurement price is raised it will have greater impact on the price rise and

(d) if so, what is the target fixed by the Government for procurement of paddy this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The pricing policy of the Government of India for the kharif cereals for the 1974-75 seasons has been decided after taking into account the recommendations contained in the Report of the Agricultural Prices Commission, the views of the State Governments as expressed in the Chief Ministers Conference held in September, 1974, and other relevant factors including the observations of the Reserve Bank of India that any significant increase in the procurement price would aggravate inflationary trends in the economy. The procurement target is being fixed in consultation with the State Governments.

Foodgrains recovered from Hoarders

159. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI M. KATHMUTHU:
SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much foodgrains were recovered from hoarders under MISA;

(b) whether the campaign had any effect on the fall of prices of foodgrains in the country; and

(c) how many persons were arrested and what kind of punishment was awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). The campaign against hoarders is one of the contributory factors towards the fall of prices of foodgrains in the country. Information regarding foodgrains recovered from hoarders under MISA and persons arrested and the kind of punishment awarded is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

New Friends Housing Cooperative Society, New Delhi

160. SHRI BHOLA MANJHI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation into the allotment and other irregularities of the New Friends Housing Cooperative Society, New Delhi has been completed;

(b) if so, the main features of the report; and

(c) the action taken, thereon?