

1	2	3	4	
Production (Rs. lakhs)	42,97,205	7.38	Gross Value Added/ Employment (Rs. '000)	30.14
Employment (Nos.)	36,65,810	6.29	Net Value Added Employment (Rs. '000)	27.99
Capacity Utili- sation	50.60%	..	Wages Paid/Employment (Rs. '000)	6.27
Value of Exports (Rs. lakhs)	2,49,902			
Total Products manu- factured (Nos.)	7449			
Leading Reserved Products manufactured (Nos.)	843			

Import of Rice

630. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted to import the rice during the current year as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of rice likely to be imported during the current financial year;

(d) the impact of this import on the prices of rice in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Import of common/coarse varieties of rice and rice with 50% or more broken has been permitted freely after review of the emerging trends in supply and stock of rice by the Government with effect from 27.5.97.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to accurately estimate the quantum of imports as they would depend upon the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets, demand and supply of different varieties traded, variation in quality and other terms of trade.

(e) Some of the measures taken to increase production and productivity of rice are the implementation of the following Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes:-

(1) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice)-assistance is being provided to the farmers for the use of certified seeds of high yielding varieties and improved farm implements including sprinkler sets and power tillers. Besides, assistance is also provided for encouraging the use of green manure and soil ameliorants.

(2) Central Sector Rice Seed Minikit Programme including propagation of improved crop production technology-seed minikits of Rice are provided to the farmers at nominal cost for propagation of new varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance and also for organising training by the Agricultural Universities/ICAR Research Institutions to the State/District Level Agriculture Officers for dissemination of improved crop production technology.

VRS for Textiles Workers of Maharashtra

631. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Maharashtra Government regarding Voluntary Retirement Scheme for workers/staff in the mills run by Maharashtra State Textile Corporation and Textile Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for early approval of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested