

Rice to Kerala

593. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA:

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:

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

(a) whether the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Kerala, has requested the Central Government for enhancement of the rice quota to that State in view of the critical food situation there;

(b) whether Government are aware that the State of Kerala has to entirely depend on the Central Government for their rice requirements; and

(c) reasons for not allocating the required quantity of rice to Kerala in spite of the large quantity of procurement of foodgrains in the Central pool?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) A request was received from the Kerala Food and Civil Supplies Minister in January, 1976 for enhancement of the State's monthly rice quota from February, 1976 onwards.

(b) and (c). The requirements of the public distribution system in Kerala are being met out of the allotments of rice made from the Central Pool and also from locally procured rice available with the State. Keeping in view the overall availability of rice in the Central Pool, relative needs of other deficit States, market availability and the need to build up a buffer stock and other relevant factors, maximum possible allotments of rice are being made to Kerala to meet its reasonable requirements of the public distribution system. The monthly allocation of rice to Kerala from the Central Pool has been increased from 45.0 thousand

tonnes to 54.0 thousand tonnes from February, 1976.

H.U.D.C.O. Funds for Andhra Pradesh

594. SHRI K. RAMKRISHNA REDDY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) funds released by H.U.D.C.O. to Andhra Pradesh during 1974-75 and 1975-76;

(b) amount likely to be released in 1976-77; and

(c) progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) 1974-75: Rs. 128.00 lakhs.

1975-76: Rs. 39.00 lakhs (Upto the end of February, 1976).

(b) Rs. 114.40 lakhs are due for release during 1976-77 in accordance with the loan agreements. The actual releases will, however, depend on the progress of work for each scheme.

(c) Upto the end of February, 1976, out of the 3464 units sanctioned, construction of 442 units has been completed and that of 1575 units is in progress. The expenditure incurred is Rs. 173 lakhs as against Rs. 524.90 lakhs sanctioned for the purpose.

Economy in use of Fertiliser

595. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state steps being taken by the Government to economise the consumption of fertilizers in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments regarding