

(b) and (c) There was a general discussion about the food situation and developments that had taken place since the Chief Ministers' Conference in June. It was agreed that the Chief Ministers should meet again at a later date to take decisions on the future food policy.

Scarcity of Vanaspati Ghee

- *51. { Shri P. C. Boroah;
Shri Naval Prabhakar;
Shri Vishram Prasad;
Shri Y. S. Chaudhary;
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vanaspati ghee became scarce to the point of extinction in Delhi in particular and other parts of the country in general during the past three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average prices on which such ghee was available at the end of July, August, September and October, 1964 in the various zones; and

(d) the steps taken to bring down its prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) There was some difficulty about availability of vanaspati in Delhi and other parts during the past three months.

(b) This was mainly due to the partial closure of some of the vanaspati factories in the Northern and Western regions due to non-availability of raw oil in sufficient quantity.

(c) The month-end retail price per kilogramme (loose) of vanaspati in the different zones was as under:—

Month	Rs. per Kg.			
	Bom- bay	Mad- ras	Delhi	Cal- cutta
July	3.74	3.69	3.71	3.73
August	3.69	3.70	3.73	3.76
September	3.77	3.77	3.87	3.76
October	3.77	3.77	3.88	3.76

(d) (i) Export of groundnut and other edible oils was banned w.e.f. 11-7-1964.

(ii) Attempt is being made to promote free movement of oil all over the country.

(iii) Use of edible oils for industrial purposes, e.g. in soap manufacture, is being discouraged.

(iv) Arrangements are being made to import substantial quantities of soyabean oil from the U.S.A. under P.L. 480 for use in vanaspati manufacture.

Fixation of Paddy Prices

*52. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide disparity amongst various States in the minimum prices of coarse paddy announced by the Central Government recently;

(b) whether the State Governments have accepted the prices announced or some of them have fixed their own minimum prices; and

(c) the specific reasons for keeping the prices of coarse paddy different from State to State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The producers prices have been announced after consultation with the State Governments except in the case of Maharashtra where such price was announced by the State Government.

(c) As the quality of paddy produced differs from State to State as also the Geographical and economic conditions, it is not possible to announce uniform prices for all the States.