

for rice. Purchases for price support are being made at Rs. 51.00 during the current year against last year's rate of Rs. 50.00 per quintal.

Demand by Punjab Provincial Rice Merchants Association for Rise in Procurement Price of Rice

3149. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :

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

(a) whether the Punjab Provincial Rice Merchants Association has warned the Central as well as the State Governments that they might suspend the milling of rice in the State if its procurement price was not immediately raised by Rs. 5 a quintal;

(b) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have also requested for increase in procurement price of rice; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The recommendation of the APC to increase the price of standard variety paddy by Re. 1/- during 1970-71 season has been accepted.

(c) Does not arise.

Complaints about RS-09 Tractors received from G. D. R.

3150. SHRI BABURAO PATEL :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received from farmers using RS-09 tractors, supplied by German Democratic Republic, Statewise;

(b) whether the Tamil Nadu State Agro-Industries Corporation has sold only 12 out of 100 ordered and wants to return 88 to the Centre because they are unsaleable and that even the few owners are claiming a refund; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) While the Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan State Agro-Industries Corporations have received 40 and 113 complaints respectively, against RS-09 tractors, the Gujarat Corporation has attended to 1400 repairs jobs on these tractors. Information from other State Agro-Industries Corporation viz Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Mysore is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Certain complaints have also been received by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Deptt. of Agriculture) direct from the farmers as indicated below besides representations from the RS-09 Tractor Owners Associations of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh:—

Andhra Pradesh	30
Punjab	11
U. P.	1
Rajasthan	1

(b) The Tamil Nadu State Agro-Industries Corporation has intimated that it has sold 13 RS-09 tractors so far and the balance 87 tractors are unsaleable because of adverse impression of farmers. One owner has claimed refund and more are likely to do so.

(c) The matter was taken up with the GDR Delegation and the State Trading Corporation. The GDR suppliers have agreed to replace free of cost defective components by new modified components in all the tractors sold to the farmers or held in stock by the State Agro-Industries