

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The production of rice in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 was 99.01 lakh tonnes, higher by 7.7 per cent over the production level of 91.95 lakh tonnes achieved in 1995-96.

(b) As per the available information, the month end wholesale prices of rice (coarse) in Vijayawada centre of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh during November & December 1996 and January 1997 are reported to be higher than the prices prevailing during the corresponding period of 1995-96.

(c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has procured 4.36, 3.58 and 4.35 lakh tonnes of rice during 1994-95 & 1995-96 crop years (First October to 30th September) and 1996-97 (First October to 7th August) respectively in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The procurement of rice in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh during kharif and rabi seasons were 61.57 and 38.43 percent respectively of total procurement made by FCI during the crop year 1996-97 (up to 7th August, 1997).

(e) It is too early to assess the production prospects of rice during the current kharif season 1997-98 in Andhra Pradesh.

(f) FCI has procured 44.60 lakh tonnes of rice in Andhra Pradesh over and above the target of 42 lakh tonnes by suitably planning the procurement, storage and movement during crop year 1996-97 (up to 7th August, 1997). This strategy would also be continued to procure the surplus rice from the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98.

Demand and Supply of Fertilizer in Kerala

3266. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidised fertilizers demanded and supplied to Kerala during each of last three years;

(b) the reasons for the short supply; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the required supply to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control. The table below gives the assessed demand,

availability and consumption of urea in Kerala during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97:

	Assessed demand	Availability*	Consumption
1994-95	1.21	1.21	1.07
1995-96	1.26	1.47	1.21
1996-97	1.33	1.47	1.21 (Estimated)

(Lakh tonnes)

*Excluding stock with State Institutional agencies.

The availability of urea in Kerala during the last three years was adequate and there was no short supply.

[Translation]

Procurement Price of Wheat

3267. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wheat procurement price has been fixed at Rs. 475 per quintal;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the Government to import wheat at a higher rate than the procurement price caused resentment among the farmers and the farmers of Punjab refused to sell wheat to the Food Corporation of India as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to obviate such crisis and save the farmers from exploitation; and

(d) the measures taken to tackle the problem arising out of hoarding of wheat by the traders and controlling the prices of wheat in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The Government fixed the minimum support price of wheat for 1996-97 crop to be marketed in 1997-98 season at Rs. 415 per quintal, marking an increase of Rs. 35 over the MSP fixed for the previous season. The Government after taking into account the requests received from the State Governments of the Punjab and Haryana for further hike in the MSP, decided to grant a Central bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal for the sale of wheat to the Central pool w.e.f. 1.4.97 to 30.6.97. The hike in

the MSP including bonus thus works out to Rs. 95 per quintal. This has brought in a substantial increase in the quantity of wheat procured during the current season. The quantity of wheat procured till 4th August, 1997 totalled 9.3 million tonnes as against 8.2 million tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last season.

(d) The Government has decided to continue a complete ban on export of wheat and wheat products during the year 1997-98. It has also been decided that licensing and stock holding limits on wheat would continue in 1997-98 season also.

Urea used in Fertilizer Plant

3268. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidised fertilizers such as Urea, D.A.P. and M.O.P. are being used by the composite fertilizer plants of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to abolish such a system?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat has informed that composite fertilizer units in the State were found to be using subsidized fertilizer like Urea, DAP and MOP for preparation of composite fertilizer. The State Government has warned all the composite fertilizer units against use of subsidized fertilizers by them. The district level Quality Control staff has also been instructed to keep a watch in this regard.

Clashes between Kukis and Nagas

3269. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of Manipur as per the last census and the population of 'Kukis' and 'Tangkhul-Naga' Tribals separately in Manipur;

(b) whether frequent clashes take place between Kukis and Tangkhul Nagas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of clashes took place between Tangkhul Nagas and Kukis during the last three years and the number of persons killed on both sides; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government and the State Government for averting clashes between Nagas and Kukis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Total population of Manipur as per 1991 census was 18,37,149 and the population of Tangkhul-Nagas was 1,09,800. Since the name 'Kuki' is not included in the list

of Scheduled Tribes for Manipur, Census data regarding their Population is not available. However, it is estimated that their population in Manipur is about 1,40,000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The root causes for the Kuki-Naga clashes are efforts by both groups for domination over larger areas and also over the Indo-Myanmar border trade, both formal and informal, through Moreh in Chandel District, Manipur.

(d) Details are indicated below:

	1995	1996	1997 (upto July)
No. of violent incidents	101	58	23
No. of persons killed			
(a) Nagas (including Tangkhul Nagas)	39	25	9
(b) Kukis	60	33	19

(e) While the Central Government have placed additional units of the Central Para Military Forces at the disposal of the State Government for checking the Kuki-Naga clashes and have advised initiatives by the State Govt. for restoration of amicable relations between the two feuding tribal communities, the State Government have deployed both State Police and Central Para Military Forces in the vulnerable areas and have made repeated efforts for bringing together the leaders of both communities for restoration of normalcy.

[English]

Survey on Land Degradation by National Bureau of Soil Survey

3270. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey by the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning along with the Agricultural Department has brought to light the alarming degree of land degradation in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the survey also refer to the decline in productive capacity of soil due to natural processes like flood and human-induced processes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government has sought the help of the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, whether any Central team has been sent for checking the soil degradation in the State of Andhra Pradesh;