

**Irregularities in Purchase of Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Plants**

404. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been rampant corruption and irregularities in the matter of purchase of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and plants in various States :

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken cognizance of the fact;

(c) the number of cases of irregularities and corruption which came to light and the action taken therein; and

(d) the details of purchase policy followed by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The following cases of frauds and other irregularities in the purchase of fertilisers/administration of Retention Price-Subsidy Scheme have in the recent past come to the notice of the Department of Fertilizers :

(i) National Fertilizer Ltd.'s deal with M/s. Karsan Ltd. of Turkey for import of Urea;

(ii) Import of Fertilizers by National Fertilizers Ltd. through M/s. Sai Krishna Impex;

(iii) Claim of retention price subsidy with the support of fabricated documents etc. by;

(a) M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd.;

(b) M/s. Harsvardhan Chemicals & Minerals Pvt. Ltd.; and

(c) M/s. Phosphate India Ltd.

The cases at S.No. (i), (ii) & (iii-b) are under investigation with Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI). In the case referred to at S.No. (iii-a), CBI had filed a Charge Sheet in the Court of Law on 30.12.1995/4 against 23 persons including 10 Central Government Officials. The case at S.No. (iii-C) is presently under scrutiny with CBI.

(d) States Governments/UTs do not purchase fertilizers. Therefore, the question of State Govts.UTs having a Purchase policy does not arise. Information regarding purchase policy followed by States/UTs regarding Seeds & Pesticides is being collected from States and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Use of Pressure Horns**

405. SHRI JAI PRAKESH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a law banning the use of pressure horns in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the said law being flouted blatantly by the buses and trucks;

(c) whether the traffic police is not checking the use of pressure horns and challaning the buses and trucks violating the law;

(d) if not, the number of trucks and buses challaned on this count in the last three years, year-wise and the money collected therefrom; and

(e) the further measures taken by the Government to enforce the law strictly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The law provides that no motor vehicle shall be fitted with any sound producing device giving unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise.

(c) and (d) The buses and trucks violating the law are duly challaned. The details are given as under :

Year	Total Trucks Challaned	Cash (in Rs.)	Total Buses challaned	Cash (in Rs.)
1994	51867	3786300	9685	864300
1995	111494	9953600	11110	1020300
1996	172033	14214800	15795	1379500
1997 (upto 31.1.97)	9071	707100	522	47500

(e) Special drives are conducted from time to time to check this menace. The motor vehicle owners are also educated through pamphlets, etc.

**Complaints Regarding Public Distribution System**

406. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to redress the complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No major complaint from State Governments/UT Administrations regarding pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System (PDS) network has been received. However, in a vast operation such as PDS, where commodities worth Rs. 15000 crores are distributed through a network of more than 4.37 lakh Fair Price shops throughout the country to 16 crore families, some

shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out altogether.

The States are periodically requested to tone up the monitoring system particularly at the Fair Price Shop level.

#### Incident of Police Firing in Uttrakhand

407. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Judicial Commission constituted to probe into the killing of 15 persons in police firing in Uttarakhand in October, 1994 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) whether some other similar Commissions have also been appointed in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether those commission have since submitted their reports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the reports of those Commissions are likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Subsidy on Fertilizers

408. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has recommended the restoration of the earlier practice of distributing fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such recommendation has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Paddy Procurement from Andhra Pradesh

409. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India expected a record paddy procurement from the East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh particularly at the time when they suffered heavy cyclone damage;

(b) if so, whether the FCI has procured 14% higher paddy than that procured during the last year from these districts;

(c) if so, the total procurement made by the FCI from these districts uptill now; and

(d) the total of rice procured by the FCI from all over India and the extent to which it is more in comparison with the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The price of paddy prevailing in the market in Andhra Pradesh is higher than the Minimum Support price fixed by the Government. As such, no paddy has been procured in any District of Andhra Pradesh so far.

21.63 lakh tonnes of rice has however been procured as levy in Andhra Pradesh upto 21.2.97 in the current 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season as against 16.58 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last season.

(c) Procurement of rice under levy in East and West Godavari districts is as under :-

(in lakh tonnes)

Distt.	Quantity of Rice procured during current 1996-97 season	Quantity of Rice procured during corresponding period of last season 1995-96
	(As on 20.2.97)	
East Godavari	3.66*	3.54
West Godavari	2.53@	1.64

(\* 0.46 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specifications.

@ 0.44 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specifications.)

(d) A quantity of 90.98 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured upto 21.2.97 in the current 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season for Central Pool as against 73.85 lakh tonnes procured during corresponding period last season.

#### 'Encroachment of Forest Area

410. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news item captioned "Assam Forest Exists only on Papers" appearing in Times of India dated January 30, 1997, reporting that on the outskirts of the city of Guwahati at Hengrapari a reserved forest exists only on papers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether encroachers have settled within the