

### Procurement of Foodgrains

1071. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement of wheat and rice made by the Government against the targets set therefor during 1995-96;

(b) the latest estimated availability of foodgrains in the country;

(c) whether in view of the sufficient growth of foodgrains the Government have agree to release more wheat and rice to States for distribution through fair price shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantity of wheat and rice released for export during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) Wheat and paddy are procured for Central Pool under minimum price support scheme on a totally voluntary basis. Rice is procured under a system of statutory levy imposed on rice millers and traders. The quantum of levy rice collected in turn depends on the quantity of paddy purchased by the millers. No target for procurement of wheat and rice can thus be fixed.

A quantity of 81.35 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 1.7.1996 during the current Rabi Marketing Season 1996-97 as compared with 122.05 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year. The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) for the Central Pool has been 97.33 lakh tonnes as on 1.7.1996 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 1995-96 as compared with 130.80 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year.

(b) Estimated stock of foodgrains (wheat and rice) held on Central and States account as on 1.6.1996 is of the order of 292 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d). Allotment of wheat and rice for PDS/RPDS to States/UTs has gone up from 21.5 million tonnes in 1993-94 to 25.5 million tonnes in 1995-96.

(e) Quantity of wheat and rice sold by FCI for export is as under :

(In lakh tonnes)		
Year	Wheat	Rice
1995-96	0.81	14.82
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	3.29	0.06

[Translation]

### Procurement and selling Price of Wheat and Rice

1072. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Farm prices going out of Government control" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated April 29, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to the increasing economic cost of Food Corporation of India (FCI) there is a big difference between the procurement and selling prices of wheat and rice in the country;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard.

(d) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to reduce the economic cost of FCI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The table below indicates (i) the Economic cost, and (ii) the Central Issue Prices i.e. the Selling price of wheat and rice through P.D.S. since 1994-95.

(Rs./quintal)

	1994-95		1995-96 (RE)		1996-97 (BE)	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Economic Cost comprising :	551.17	694.71	563.57	746.72	582.17	773.49
(a) Acquisition cost (i.e. pooled cost+procurement incidentals)	445.66	595.90	460.38	637.58	468.34	664.95
(b) Distribution cost (i.e. freight, handling, storage, interest etc)	105.51	98.81	103.19	109.14	113.83	108.54