

- (a) whether the Indian Potash Limited have purchased sub-standard Potassic fertilizers from Russia;
- (b) if so, whether an inquiry had been instituted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to discontinue the payment of subsidy for the sub-standard imported material;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken to stop recurrence of such incidents in future and action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) to (f) Indian Potash Limited has not signed any contract with Russia/CIS suppliers for import of Muriate of Potash during 1996-97 and so far in the current year. However, IPL had signed a contract for supply of 4 lakh MTs of MOP of CIS origin during 95-96 which conformed to standards in terms of nutrient content, though deviating from particle size specifications. Relaxation has been provided to material conforming to nutrient content in respect of particle size.

Wheat Procurement

*431. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

- (a) the target set and achieved regarding the procurement of wheat during the current season and financial incentives proposed to facilitate the achievement of wheat procurement target during the current season, State-wise;
- (b) the response of the farmers and the action taken by the Government to achieve the target fully;
- (c) the details of representations received from the State Governments and farmers, associations regarding the fixation of remunerative prices of wheat;
- (d) the action taken thereon;
- (e) the present status of the issues still remaining unresolved; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to resolve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND

DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) and (b) The procurement of foodgrains under Price Support Scheme is voluntary in nature, of the farmers. As such, no targets for procurement are fixed. However, administrative and financial arrangements have been made for procurement of about 110 lakh tonnes of wheat.

A total quantity of 28.09 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured in the current marketing season 1997-98 (upto 8.5.97). A statement showing procurement of wheat in 1997-98 season, State-wise is enclosed.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed for wheat for Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 is Rs. 415/- per quintal as against a price of Rs. 380/- per quintal in the previous season. The Government have also announced a central bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal, in addition to the MSP, for wheat procured for the central pool during the period from 17th March, 1997 to 10th June, 1997. Thus, procurement price of wheat in 1997-98 season has been enhanced by Rs. 95/- per quintal which is 25% more than the price paid in the previous season. This increase in the MSP and the bonus are payable to the farmers in all the States/U.Ts. The Government have also decided to continue the ban on the export of wheat and wheat products over 1997-98 season and retain licensing and stock holding limits on wheat besides placing the wheat under Selective Credit Control. These measures are expected to result in higher procurement for the Central Pool.

(c) to (f) The Governments of Punjab and Haryana had requested for increase in the Minimum Support Price by atleast Rs.100/- per quintal and Rs. 135/- per quintal, respectively, in view of the high prices of wheat prevailing in the market. State Governments of other wheat procuring States had also expressed the view that increase in the MSP or payment of some bonus are necessary to ensure adequate level of procurement. Taking into account the view of the State Governments, the Central Government has announced a bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal, in addition to the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 415/- per quintal, for wheat procured for Central Pool during the period 17.3.1997 to 10.6.1997. After this announcement, no other issue for increase in the price of wheat is pending with the Central Government.

Statement

*Procurement of Wheat during 1997-98 season
(upto 3.5.1997)*

	(Fig. in lakh tonnes)
Haryana	7.31
Madhya Pradesh	0.05
Punjab	19.56
Rajasthan	0.38
Uttar Pradesh	0.78
Total	<u>28.08</u>