

possibilities through sustained vigilance and operations against various secessionist and militant organisations in different parts of the country.

Pricing Structure for Foodgrains

*68. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a report has been submitted by the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) on the pricing structure for the foodgrains procurement;

(b) the view of the CACP on the policy of staggered purchases with a graduated price structure for the foodgrains procurement; and

(c) the policy being followed at present by the Food Corporation of India and the extent to which it is in line with the report of CACP?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CACP in its report on Price Policy for Rabi crops of 1995-96 season expressed the view that a system of staggered procurement with graduated price structure would not only create more distortions in marketing and pricing system but would also make food management more difficult and costly in the medium term. The Government had agreed with the observations of the CACP and decided that only the minimum support prices be announced.

(c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures foodgrains (wheat, paddy and coarsegrains) from the farmers at the minimum support prices announced by the Central Government. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by farmers at specified centres are brought by the FCI in close collaboration with State Governments and their procuring agencies. The producers have option to sell their produce to FOI/State agencies at support price or in the open market as is advantageous to them. The rice is collected by way of statutory levy on rice millers and rice dealers. The percentage of levy is fixed by State Governments.

Open Market Sales of Wheat and Rice

69. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of discretionary powers exercised by the officials of Food Corporation of India for open market sales of wheat and rice;

(b) whether open auctions for its stocks at various depots are not held;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce open market sales scheme; 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) While the policy matters like the prices, ceilings on open sale of Wheat and Rice (Domestic) are decided by the Government, operational matters such as Statewise releases are fixed by the FCI. A three-member committee headed by SRM, Food Corporation of India (FCI) decides the names of purchasers alongwith the quantity of wheat to be sold to the purchasers in a month.

(b) and (c). FCI does not conduct open auctions for its stocks at various depots. Open sale of Wheat and Rice is undertaken, inter alia, to exert a sobering influence on the market prices without jeopardising the Public Distribution System. On relevant/practical consideration Government has decided to undertake open sale of Wheat and Rice on prices above the Central Issue Price but below the FCI's economic cost.

(d) and (e). Open Market Sales Scheme for domestic use for Wheat and Rice is already in vogue since October, 1993 and January, 1994 respectively.

Irregularities in NDMC

*70. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the accounts of NDMC have not been audited for over the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken to audit the accounts of all the Departments of NDMC and to lay the findings thereof on the table of the House; and

(d) the position of audit vis-a-vis MCD?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). The Concurrent Audit Party has been over the years conducting the audit of accounts of various deptts./units of the NDMC under the overall supervision of the Examiner, Local Fund Account, Delhi Administration but there has been a delay in the preparation of annual audit reports. The last annual audit report was issued in 1989 and this pertained to the year 1985-86. The Examiner, Local Fund Account has attributed this delay, inter alia, to the shortage of staff.

(c) Consequent upon the enactment of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994, a Chief Auditor has been appointed recently under section 33 of the said Act. The Chief Auditor is charged with the statutory responsibility of examining and auditing the accounts of the Council and is required to deliver to the Council.

as soon as may be after the commencement of each year, a report of the entire accounts of the Council for the previous year. It is expected that once the staff and infrastructural support for the Chief Auditor is finalised, yearly audit of receipt and expenditure will be done as per schedule. A proposal to provide necessary support is under consideration of the Council. There is no provision in the said Act for placing a copy of the audit report before Parliament.

(d) According to the information received from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the accounts relating to non-plan expenditure of the General Wing of the Corporation have been audited upto 1994-95. The accounts for the year 1995-96 are under audit.

Special Courts for SC/ST

*71. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for providing speedy justice in cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such courts are likely to be set up in each State/Union Territory; and

(d) the total Central assistance proposed to be given by the Union Government to assist the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in setting up special courts for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 already requires the State Governments to specify for each district a Court of Sessions as a Special Court to try offences under the Act. However, a proposal to amend the Act so as to provide, inter alia, for mandatory establishment of exclusive Special Courts in each district, subject to exemption or clubbing of districts with the concurrence of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is also undergoing consultation with the State Governments and others concerned.

(d) Under an existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments on a 50:50 basis (100% to the UT Administrations) for the measures undertaken by them for the implementation of the Act. As such, the State Governments and UT Administrations would be eligible for matching Central Assistance for the expenditure incurred by them on setting up Special Courts, the quantum of which would take into consideration the annual proposals made by them in this regard.

Development of Rainfed Areas

*72. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the specific measures taken and resources extended for the development of rainfed tracts which constitute 70 percent of the total crop area;

(b) whether effective use of irrigation facilities both existing and potential, has been augmented and tapped for the greater yield; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A number of steps have been taken to develop rainfed tracts in the country. These include implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and externally aided projects. A list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented during Eighth Five Year Plan along with funds released during the last 4 years is given in Statement-I attached.

A list of externally aided projects along with the amount spent so far in respect of each project is given in Statement-II attached.

(b) and (c). The schemes implemented for augmentation of irrigation facilities have helped in augmenting the utilisation of irrigation potential in the country from 22.60 million ha. in 1950-51 to 76.7 million ha. in 1993-94. This has consequently resulted in increase in agricultural production in the country. The increased irrigation potential along with other measures has helped in increasing foodgrain production from 171.04 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 192.00 million tonnes in 1995-96.

STATEMENT - I

Amount Released for Development of Rainfed Farming under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Releases during the last 4 years of 8th Plan (1992-93 to 1995-96)
1	2	3
1.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA)	733.33
2.	Watershed Development Project for Control of Shifting Cultivation Areas in North-Eastern India.	26.02