

(e) the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The quantity of paddy procured by FCI in the current Kharif marketing year i.e. 1996-97 (upto 11.12.1996) is as under :

(in tonnes)				
State/U.T	Common	Fine	Superfine	Total
Punjab	133,313	15,69,165	-	17,02,478
Haryana	595	1,144	162,417	1,64,156
UI of Chandigarh		Not Available		3,372
Total	133,908	15,70,309	162/417	18,70,006

The minimum support prices for various groups of paddy for 1996-97 marketing season are as under :

Common	Rs. 380/- per quintal
Fine	Rs. 395/- per quintal
Superfine	Rs. 415/- per quintal

These prices are uniform throughout the country.

(b) and (c). Complaints were received that PR-106 paddy is not being purchased in Punjab at M.S.P. fixed for Superfine paddy.

FCI purchase paddy on the basis of their classification as per Length/Breadth ratio as Common, Fine and Superfine. Although PR—106 variety of paddy is classified as Superfine, it may be downgraded to next lower group i.e. Fine, in case the admixture of lower groups of paddy is higher than the limit prescribed in the specifications. Instructions have been issued to FCI to ensure that the price is paid to the farmers as per the prescribed specifications.

(d) No. Sir. No paddy, which has been classified as superfine in neighbouring states, has been classified as Fine or Common in Punjab.

(e) Does not arise.

#### New Variety of Rice

\*368. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the International Rice Research Institute have put their brain together to produce 'Super Rice Plant' that may radically increase its yield;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already produced a new hybrid variety of rice that would increase its yield by one tonne per hectare?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Scientists at International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines are working on the concept of super rice, which it is believed would raise the yield level of rice by 20-25%. ICAR scientists are also working independently to develop rice variety with the same objective. Development of such a variety will involve remodelling of the rice plant structurally to bear heavy panicles with high grain number and high grain weight.

(c) Yes Sir. Under the ICAR system six rice hybrids namely, APHR-1, APHR-2, MGR-1, KRH-1, KRH-2, DRRH-1 AND CNRH-1 have been released for cultivation in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. These hybrids yield 1.0-1.5 tonnes more per hectare than the best high yielding varieties under the irrigated conditions.

[Translation]

#### Protection of Taj from Pollution

\*369. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the resources mobilised by the Government to save Tajmahal from the environmental pollution;

(b) whether the State Government has demanded equal participation of the Central Government in mobilising the resources for the development of Taj Protected Area;

(c) if so, the details of the projects for which the demand has been made; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The Planning Commission is considering to allot Rs. 300 crores as Central share during the Ninth Plan on a 50:50 percent matching basis with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to cover the estimated cost of Rs. 600 crores to implement various schemes relating to the protection of Taj Mahal. The Planning Commission has also made an additional provision of Rs. 90 crores to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for improvement of power sector-transmission and distribution for the protection of environment in the Taj Trapezium.

(d) The Planning Commission has decided that as and when the State Government would raise a demand in respect of specific project relating to Taj Mahal, the necessary amount in advance out of the approved outlay would be released.

[English]

#### Drug Menace

370. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn to the news item captioned "Drug Menace Plaguing India", appearing in the Times of India, dated November 18, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the Indian youth for the drug menace?

**THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported in the news item mentioned above that India is increasingly being plagued by the drug menace as illicit drug continues to trickle in from South West Asia and South East Asian Countries.

(c) The Ministry of Finance (Narcotic Control Bureau) is the nodal agency for all matters pertaining to supply and control of drugs. For this purpose, it has enacted a comprehensive Law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. The main objective of these Acts are to impose stringent punishment for illicit traffickers and offenders.

The Ministry of Welfare is the nodal Ministry to coordinate the demand reduction measures. In order to counteract the increasing demand for dependence producing drugs, this Ministry is implementing since 1985-86 the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention wherein financial assistance is given to non-governmental organisations for running Drug Awareness Counselling and Assistance Centres and De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres. At present 357 Centres are being assisted by the Government of which 129 are De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres and 228 are Counselling Centres.

The Ministry is proposing further to strengthen its demand reduction programmes with greater emphasis on Awareness Generation, Preventive Education Programmes and expansion of Counselling, De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres.

[Translation]

#### Use of Official Languages

\*371. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where courses in agricultural technology are being conducted in the Indian languages;

(b) the reasons for undertaking teaching, training and research work only in English language in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(c) whether the Official Languages Act, 1963 has not been implemented;

(d) whether the Government propose to start courses in agricultural technology at all the levels in Indian languages throughout the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :** (a) In addition to English, the medium of instruction in Indian languages is also being followed in GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar; Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur; J.N. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur; Rajasthan Agril. University Bikaner, NDUAT, Faizabad and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

(b) English language is being used for teaching in the four National Institutes (IARI, IVRI, NDRI, CIFE) conferred the status of Deemed to be Universities, since students admitted are from all over the country as well as from overseas countries. However, training programmes are conducted in Hindi where the participants do not know English. Students and scientists are encouraged to publish papers in Indian languages. Literature and instructional materials also are being produced in Indian languages.

(c) Provision of Official Languages Act 1963 has been implemented in all ICAR Institutes.

(d) and (e). Agriculture being a State subject, starting courses in agricultural technology at all the levels in Indian languages fall within the purview of the respective State Governments.

[English]

#### Subsidy on Fertilizers

\*372. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether subsidy on fertilizers has led to a situation where the fertility of the land is affected and the environmentalists are very much concerned about the same;

(b) whether the subsidy is benefiting only the big landlords and not the poor farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that its benefit reaches the poor farmers?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :** (a) No, Sir. There is no evidence to suggest that use of balanced chemical fertilizers destroys soil fertility. Results of long-term experiments have shown that gains in crop productivity due to use of chemical fertilizers can be sustained if the health of soil resource base is maintained through the use of organics. The need, therefore, is for balanced use of chemical fertilizers with integrated use of organics.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The subsidy is benefitting all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers as per their use.