

18. The tribal refugees who were convicted in sabotage linked criminal cases during previous regime will be granted general amnesty.
19. Troops will be withdrawn from civilian area in succession, considering the prevailing situation in Hill Chittagong.
20. Every tribal Headman will be reinstated to their own post.

A joint task force will be constituted in co-ordination with the National Committee and representatives from refugees to be in execution of these 20 (twenty) point concessions and its supervision. In first phase on 26 March, 1997, 5000 (five thousand) refugees will start their repatriation. One month after this repatriation, a team of refugee leader will inspect the overall condition of the rehabilitated refugees and general situation prevailing in the Hill Chittagong. If the situation is found normal, the repatriation process will continue.

Upendra Lal Chakma
President,
Hill District Jumma
Refugee Welfare
Committee

A.S.M. Mobaidul Islam
Director General
Special Affairs Development
Office of the Prime Minister
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka

Decline in Wheat Output

4798. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the decline in wheat output which is estimated at about 62.2 million tonnes in the current fiscal year (1996-97) down from 65.2 million tonnes in 1995-96;

(b) whether the Government assessed its impact in terms of food security considering the sharp drop in the official procurement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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) The All India Production of wheat during 1996-97 crop year is expected to be about 64.66 million tonnes which is higher by 3.26% than the production of 62.62 million tonnes achieved in 1995-96 crop year.

(b) to (d) In spite of the reduction in procurement by 4.1 million tonnes in 1996-97 Rabi Marketing Season as

compared to the previous season the Central Government had adequate stocks to meet the full requirement of PDS. With a view to controlling the rising trend in the prices of wheat and wheat products in the market, the Government decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat in December, 1996 to augment availability of wheat in the country. The Government also banned the export of wheat and wheat products besides imposing licensing and stock holding limits on wheat.

In order to maximise procurement in the Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98, the Government have decided to give a bonus to Rs. 60 per quintal in addition to the MSP of Rs. 415 per quintal. This represent a hefty increase of Rs. 95 per quintal in the procurement price of wheat as compared to the previous season. The ban on export of wheat and wheat products and stock holding limits will also continue in 1997-98. The production of wheat is expected to be 64.66 million tonnes which, in view of the attractive procurement price announced by the Government is likely to result in adequate level of procurement of wheat in 1997-98 Rabi Marketing season to meet full requirement of TPDS and also the buffer stocking norms.

Remunerative Prices to Jute Farmers

4799. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute farmers of Bihar are getting the remunerative prices;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to this the farmers are not taking keen interests in jute farming;

(d) whether jute industry is being ruined due to this; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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 wholesale prices for TD-5 grade of raw jute at Purnia Centre in Bihar for which data are available, are ruling around Rs. 825 per quintal. These are much above the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 541 fixed for this grade in Bihar.

(c) The cultivation of jute in Bihar is progressing satisfactorily. Both, area and production have been generally showing rising trend. An area of about 1.42 lakh ha. was cultivated under jute in Bihar in 1996-97 as against 1.37 lakh ha. in 1990-91. The production of jute which was 10.1 lakh bales (180 Kg. each) in 1990-91 increased to 12.92 lakh bales in 1996-97.