

Support Price for Paddy

3097. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of paddy during the year 1997-98 as compared to the year 1996-97;

(b) whether there is any special scheme for increasing the per hectare production of paddy in India equal to that of Japan or China;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any scheme for processing and improving the quality of seeds for the paddy yield in water logged areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to increase the support price of paddy;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of rice during 1997-98 is estimated to be about 83.52 million tonnes as compared to 81.31 million tonnes during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) In order to increase the production and productivity of cereal crops including rice in the country, Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereal)" are being implemented. Besides, another Central Sector "Rice Seed Minikit" programme is also being implemented for the introduction/popularisation of new rice varieties. However, there is no special scheme, as such, for increasing the per hectare production of paddy in India equal to that of Japan or China.

(d) and (e) For the development of improved varieties/seeds of paddy for water logged conditions research work is being done at Central Rice Research Institute, ICAR, Cuttack and State Agricultural Universities/Research Centres in West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Coordinated trials are also being conducted by the All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project under the Directorate of Rice Research, ICAR, Hyderabad.

(f) to (h) There is no proposal to increase the Minimum Support Price of Paddy already announced for the 1997-98 season in view of its record procurement during the current year.

Talks with Bangladesh

3098. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to keep the Government of West Bengal involved in various stages of its negotiations with Bangladesh, on irrigation, economic, border management and other issues; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government of India have involved the Government of West Bengal at various stages in the negotiation of several matters with the Government of Bangladesh. Representative of the Government of West Bengal have participated in the negotiations with Bangladesh regarding Ganga water sharing, in the meetings of the Joint Rivers Commission, in the talks regarding the Teesta as well as in the discussions on a Motor Vehicles Agreement.

[Translation]

3099. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has given an arbitration award in regard to Shah Canal between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab in the year 1995;

(b) if so, the dues to be paid to Himachal Pradesh by Punjab as per this award; and

(c) the details of the dues paid by the Punjab to Himachal Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the award, the combined capacity of the lined canal of the 1 project shall be of 10.30 Cumecs (364 Cusecs) and the cost for 7.08 Cumecs (250 Cusecs) canal capacity will be shared by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in terms of the agreement dated 4th August, 1983. The balance cost of difference of capacity of channel between 10.30 Cumecs (364 Cusecs) and 7.08 Cumecs (250 Cusecs), that is, 3.22 Cumecs (114 Cusecs)