

us have Harijans and may be tribals in our constituencies, to see how to create that atmosphere, where people will not behave so barbarically, however much their feelings are aroused, even if they feel there is a cause for revenge. One wrong is committed, immediately the aggrieved feel that they must retaliate. The only solution is, apart from taking all possible administrative and other measures for protection as well as for punishment of the guilty, if we create an atmosphere that this is wrong, that it is not done in Indian society and will not be accepted by society. This is no short term solution. Much as I would like to say that I think such incidents are not going to happen again, I cannot honestly say that. We can only say that we shall try our very utmost, our very best to prevent such things from happening and I hope that in this effort we shall have the full cooperation of all sections of the people.

19.49 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: PRICE AND PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR WHEAT AND GRAM FOR 1980-81.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

(SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO):

Sir, I rise to make a statement on the price and procurement policy for wheat and gram for the 1980-81 marketing season....(Interruptions).

.....I apologise for my inability to make this statement earlier at the fixed time.

The Government have had under consideration the recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission and have taken the following decisions in regard to the price and procurement policy for wheat and gram for the 1980-81 rabi marketing season:—

- (i) The support price of wheat will be Rs. 117 per quintal and that of gram Rs. 145 per quintal;
- (ii) The issue price of wheat from the Central pool will be maintained at the present level of Rs. 130 per quintal;
- (iii) Free movement of grains throughout the country will continue, the whole country continuing to be treated as a single zone for this purpose; and
- (iv) As procurement will be by way of affording price support, there will be no formal targets of quantities to be procured.

2. Government will ensure that price support operations are backed by adequate purchase arrangements in the field. However, this is a matter in which the primary responsibility rests on the State Governments. All efforts will be made to help the State Governments and the public agencies in removing any bottlenecks and in setting up an extensive network of purchase centres in areas where procurement takes place.

The Lak Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 14, 1980/Phalguna 24 1901 (Saka).