

[Translation]

Procurement of Wheat

1365. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the quantity of wheat procured from various Government procurement centres during the current rabi season, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): 90.04 lakh tonnes (as on 16.3.90). State-wise procurement figures during the current 1989-90 rabi marketing season are as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

State	Quantity
1	2
Punjab	56.02
Haryana	19.73
Uttar Pradesh	13.23
Rajasthan	1.06
Jammu & Kashmir	Negligible
	90.04

Utilisation of River Water for Pali, Sirohi and Jalore Districts in Rajasthan

1366. SHRIGUMAN MALLODHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan for the utilisation of water of monsoon rivers for drought prone districts of Rajasthan especially Pali, Sirohi and Jalore districts; and

(b) the time by which water from Indira Gandhi Canal (Rajasthan Canal) is likely to be made available to the people of Jodhpur division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The State Government has formulated proposals to impound flood waters in Luni basin for flood moderation and subsequent utilisation to benefit among others Pali, Jalore and Sirohi districts.

(b) Partial benefits from Phalodi and Pokhran Lift Irrigation Projects and Jodhpur Water Supply Scheme which draw water from Indira Gandhi Canal are scheduled to accrue in Jodhpur District during the Eighth Plan.

[English]

Facilities to SC/ST Converted to Buddhism

1367. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to ensure that Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe people who convert to Buddhism are entitled to the same facilities which are available to them before conversion;

(b) whether they would also be entitled for the same facilities if converted to other religions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990, to remove bar on the Scheduled Caste converts to

Buddhism from being deemed to be members of the Scheduled Castes has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.3.1990. For Scheduled Tribes, there is no bar whatsoever based on religion.

(b) and (c). After the above amendment is made in para 3 of all the Presidential Orders issued so far specifying Scheduled Castes, all persons who profess the religions Hindu, Sikh or the Buddhism shall be deemed to be members of Scheduled Castes. Persons professing religions different from Hindu, Sikh, Buddhism, therefore, will not be entitled to get the benefits of Scheduled Castes.

Preservation and marketing of Coconut Water

1368. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate comprehensive scheme for preservation and marketing of coconut water; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not have any proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Retail and wholesale prices of consumer items

1369. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the comparative retail and whole-sale prices of various consumer items, especially, varieties of wheat, rice, cereals, pulses, sugar, soaps, teas, edible oils, spices as in January, 1988, 1989 and 1990?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): A statement showing the retail and whole-sale prices of various commodities as in January, 1988, 1989 and 1990 is given below.