

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that educative measures would be taken to achieve family planning targets. I would like to know the targets set for family planning and the educative measures planned to be taken to achieve them.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Sir, by the end of this century we want to bring the target to 1.2%. At present it is 2.04%. We want to adopt an educative policy for this purpose. This should be given wider publicity because it is important for every individual in this country. Family planning must be adopted in some way or the other if we are to survive and if our children are to enjoy better health. We will also seek the voluntary services of school teachers. They too can enlighten people in this regard. As far as publicity measures are concerned, we are using the media of radio and T.V. to involve the general public.

Remunerative price to farmers

*599. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers are not getting remunerative support price for their produce in Bihar due to middlemen in these 'mandis';

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide remunerative support price to these farmers in these 'mandis'?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Government of India have not received any report of distress sale of grains conforming to specifications at prices lower than the support prices fixed in Bihar

(c) The Food Corporation of India alongwith the State Governments and their agencies undertake purchase of grains at the support prices declared by the Government. Purchase Centres are opened, wherever necessary, in order to provide price support to the farmers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is not only unsatisfactory, but ambiguous as well. The hon. Minister has said very vaguely that the Food Corporation of India alongwith State Government agencies purchases grains at the support prices announced by the Government and procurement centres are opened, wherever necessary. Due to the non-availability of wholesale markets and in the absence of any arrangements made by F.C.I., big traders and hoarders are exploiting the farmers to the maximum by buying their raw-produce at cheap rates. I want to know whether the Government is aware of this and whether any criteria has been fixed for opening procurement centres in any district?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: The Government has not received any complaint from either the people of Bihar or from the Government of Bihar regarding non-opening of procurement centres or non-purchase of foodgrains. Even now, the price of wheat in Bihar is Rs. 260 per quintal and the minimum support price has been fixed at Rs. 215 per quintal. The F.C.I. proposes to open seven centres while the State Government is setting up 62 centres. These centres are likely to be opened soon, but at the moment, the market price is quite high and whenever a need for purchasing arises, we would enter the market.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the hon. Minister kindly name one such centre opened by the Government in Bihar under the scheme to open new centres in order to provide support price to farmers?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I am tell-

ing you that we are fully geared to open such centres. Earlier also, many centres were opened. The centres recently set up by the F.C.I. are at Gaya, Arrah, Buxar, Chakiya, Chanpatiya, Muzaffarpur and Gulab Bagh. Let me tell you about the results also. The centres which were opened during 1985-86 procured 25,000 tonnes of rice and 4,00 tonnes of wheat. During 1986-87 and 1987-88, no purchases were made, as the, market prices were high and no farmer was willing to sell these two foodgrains to State Government agencies at the minimum support price announced by the Food Corporation of India. During 1988-89, 14,000 tonnes of rice was purchased, but no wheat was purchased. During 1989-90, neither wheat nor rice were procured. but this year we are geared up to make procurements. At present, the F.C.I. has got seven centres. I have no difficulty in opening new centres. If the hon. Members from Bihar find that the farmers there are getting less than Rs. 215 per quintal announced by the Government, then I shall order opening of more F.C.I. procurement centres. We would not allow the farmers to suffer the loss of even a single paisa.

SHRI VASANT SATHE. It is true that the Government is giving a fair price to the farmers and it is also increasing the support prices, so that the farmers may get remunerative prices for their produce. The objective is that the F.C.I. should purchase the produce of the farmers, if they did not get remunerative prices in the open market. Sir, just now, the hon. Minister has said that why a farmer should sell his produce to the F.C.I., if he is getting remunerative price in the open market itself? I would like to state that loss is being incurred in terms of under utilisation of the Godown space available with the F.C.I. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government would remove the middlemen because the poor employees of the F.C.I. are getting exploited at the hands of the contractors? This complaint has come from those employees. Please tell us the action you propose to take in this regard?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is not related to

the main question. I shall reply to it, if he gives a separate notice for it. Another information that I would like to give is that earlier the Government had decided that NAFED would procure coarse grain, but now the F.C.I. has made arrangements to procure Kharif crops like paddy, bajra, jowar, ragi etc. The procurement of these crops would be announced in due course of time and the F.C.I. would come forward for their procurement. In the past, NAFED did not have the capacity to store the crops it bought at the floor prices, but the F.C.I. has enough capacity to store these crops.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The hon. Minister has missed my question. I had said that lakhs of F.C.I. employees protect all the foodgrains purchased and stored by this agency, but due to the fact that those employees are being engaged on a contractual service through contractors, they (the employees) have not been able to provide the required protection to the stocks.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is not related to the main question. Four types of labour are there in F.C.I. and they have different entitlements also. Many workers, who are under the Contract Labour System would like to be engaged direct under the Mate System. This is a gradual process. We have got four systems, out of which one is Departmental System and the other is Mate System. We have been engaging people under these systems provided that at the time of such engagements, no disturbance is created, as is the usual practice. I would like to curb it and I am very cautious in making this system effective. I am hopeful that within a few days, you would be satisfied with the work done.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHAN: The essence of the question is that the Mandi people are making huge profits, out of the farmers. The farmers are losing. The Mandis never lose. They get regular commission and some percentage for each grinding. Will the Government come forward and

fix the commission rates at a reduced rate which will not affect the farmers, and will ensure that the Mandis do not exploit the farmers and make huge profits? That is the essence of the question. The Minister has accepted that it is not sold below the support price. Of course, the market price is always above the support price, because you know that the minimum support price is always below the market price. Therefore, I want to know whether Government will come forward to control the Mandis, so that they do not exploit the farmers, and ensure that their percentage of commission is restricted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wholesale markets (Mandis) are a State subject and in each State, the State Government and the Mandis work in tandem in the interest of the farmers. Some charges are levied in the Mandis, which are regulated by the State Governments. The State Governments use that levy for the development of those very Mandis as also roads. Therefore, it is necessary for them to have resources. If it is felt that charges are high in any particular State, talks could be held with that State Government. We do not have any arrangement to keep a check over it.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said just now that the Government announces the support prices which are fixed at the time of sowing of each crop. Now the question is as to what remunerative support prices are to be given to the farmers, so that they may get a reasonable price for their produce. There is a difference between support price and remunerative support price. The Government wants the farmer to get a remunerative price which should be higher than the cost of inputs used by him in raising the crop. Through you, I would like to know the measures being taken by the Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers?

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: The hon. Member has raised a very good question as

to what should be the remunerative support price for Kharif crops and what should be the remunerative support price for Rabi crops. Earlier, the Agricultural Prices Commission used to determine the support prices by adopting certain methodology but after this Government assumed office, we decided to pay attention to other factor linked with raising of crops by the farmers, at the time of fixing the remunerative support prices. After much deliberations, we decided to take three main factors into consideration at the time of fixing the remunerative support prices. They are ten percent management cost of the farmers and also the wages of his family members, which were never included earlier. Here also, we decided to take into consideration the minimum wages or the wages prevailing at that time whichever is higher. Apart from this, we have accounted for the three types of input costs, which were not taken into account earlier. This is the reason that we have announced the price for wheat at Rs. 215 per quintal well in advance, though the crop is yet to arrive in the market. Similarly, we would be announcing the support prices for mustard seeds and gram also, though the time for doing so has not yet come. While leaving office, the earlier Government fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 200 per quintal, whereas earlier they used to get only Rs. 183 per quintal. However, the earlier Government increased that price on a theoretical basis. We felt that even this price is on the lower side. After much deliberation, we have announced Rs. 215 as the support price even before the season and this price is fully in the favour of the farmers. Taking into account the earlier hike of Rs. 17 and the present increase of Rs. 15, it would mean that the farmer would be getting Rs. 32 per quintal over and above the earlier price. (*Interruptions*) Earlier the support price for mustard seed was fixed at Rs. 510 per quintal, but now we have raised it to Rs. 575. Similarly, we have increased the support price for barely which was very less earlier. Apart from this, we have increased the support price of gram by Rs. 90 per quintal. (*Interruptions*) We have made similar increases in the prices of other crops as well. Now we fix the support prices only after

taking into account the expenditure incurred by the farmers on two-three accounts, which is in the larger interests of the farmers. (Interruptions) If you want to know all these things in details, I will explain everything to you.

[English]

Cancer Treatment

*600. SHRI. V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the people who die of cancer succumb not to the primary tumour but to its off-spring elsewhere in the body;

(b) whether the scientists now have a detailed understanding of how cancer spreads to distant sites; and

(c) if so, to what extent this innovation will provide basis for new weapons against secondary tumours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) People may die of cancer at primary stage also if not treated. Cancer patients having secondary spread to other areas mostly die due to delay in medical intervention.

(b) and (c). Cancer spreads to other areas of the body through direct extension, and through lymphatic and blood vessels. Advantage of this knowledge is taken in planning the treatment of cancer. All potential sites around the tumour, which could harbour tumour cells, are removed by surgery chemotherapy or by radiation to minimise the chances of spread.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: The number of cancer patients is on the increase day by

day. The steady increase in air pollution, water pollution, etc. has added misery to the cancer patients. Day before yesterday, the hon. Minister of Environment, Smt. Maneka Gandhi, was referring to the increasing danger of cancer due to various pollutions. I want to know whether the Government is aware of the latest researches done in the field of cancer cure in foreign countries especially in the United States of America. I also want to know whether any break-through has been achieved in this field.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: The hon. Member has expressed his concern about the danger of cancer. No doubt, cancer is a very dangerous disease and the number of patients is increasing. Normally, we have to fight back this disease and treat the people who are suffering from cancer. We will definitely take advantage of the research and we would like to provide funds for this research.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the hon. Minister inform the House of the progress made in this field and achievements of the Indian medical researchers in detecting secondary tumours in their early stage and in controlling the development of the secondary tumours? Also, does the Government propose to undertake a joint research with the US National Cancer Institute, which is doing pilot work in this regard so that the results could be shared by India for treating cancer patients?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Usually, cancer is detected in the secondary stage. It is difficult to detect it in the early stage. So, during the Eighth Plan, our emphasis will be for detecting it in the early stage and preventing it. As we have already told you, we will provide funds for early detection of cancer; and in this connection, we have chosen certain districts as project areas, and these areas will be linked with the Cancer Institute to provide help.

SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: The modern technology in this country is limited and inadequate. The people, who are suffering from cancer, are trying for admission in