

Supply of Rice to Maharashtra

*427. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of Maharashtra regarding supply of rice during 1984-85 ; and

(b) to what extent Government have decided to increase the rice quota in the light of high procurement ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : (a) Government of Maharashtra had made a demand of 9.10 lakh tonnes of rice for allotment from the Central Pool during 1984-85.

(b) The allocation has been maintained at the previous year's level.

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : The Minister has mentioned that the allocation has been maintained at the previous year's level. That means that the request of the State Government has been accepted.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Previous year's level means 25000 tonnes of rice per month and that has been going on for a very long time.

SHRI S.G. GHALOP : We were getting 75000 tonnes per month or 9 lakh tonnes per year. In Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad which are Corporation cities, statutory rationing is there, and we have to supply them rice. Previously, we were getting 75000 tonnes ; we are now getting only 25,000 tonnes per month. Most of the rice is distributed in statutory rationing area and we do not have anything for the rural areas. Will the Government consider for giving more quantity of rice to Maharashtra ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We consider requests from the States from month to month. And in view of the stocks that we have and the availability of rice in the open market, we thought that 25000 tonnes per month for Maharashtra was enough, because ours is only a supplemental effort. Our public distribution system is not actually complete rationing system. People purchase from the open market also, and if there is any real hardship experienced by

any State, we increase the quantity allocated, but Maharashtra also gets large quantity of wheat allocated per month. And it has been seen that they do not lift the quantities of wheat allocated to them.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Because they do not like it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Well, Maharashtra is also a rice producing State to some extent and it is regrettable that there is no effort whatsoever in Maharashtra to procure rice.

They do not do it. For the last two months, they did nothing. This year only 1,000 tonnes is so far procured by Maharashtra. For the previous two years, there was almost nothing at all. The State should also come forward to procure something for the Central Pool. Then they should claim.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it not a remarkable achievement.

SHRI G. S. GHOLAP : Maharashtra is producing lots of sugar. Similarly we are producing cotton also. We are entitled for rice also.

MR. SPEAKER : You sweeten the lives of the people.

SHRI G. S. GHOLAP : What was the procurement in 1982 when we were getting 75 thousand tonnes and what is the procurement today ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Procurement of rice in 1982 from Maharashtra....

SHRI G. S. GHOLAP : Not from Maharashtra. We are getting 75 thousand tonnes in Maharashtra from the Centre in 1982. What was the procurement in 1982 in Centre and what is the present procurement ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Procurement in the whole country is much higher than what it was last year. It is higher than what it was in the previous year because of the increased production. That should also mean that every State has got to take some responsibility for increasing foodgrain production. It is noted that Maharashtra has not been able to increase

its food production at all, more or less no increase at all. For the last five years, it is around 95 lakh tonnes, and that is all. All cereals. Every State has made a big jump in the production of foodgrains and other agricultural produce. Maharashtra also should do something.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : It produces sugarcane and cotton.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Maharashtra is producing rice mostly in rain-fed areas and that is the reason why the yield is less. There are certain areas like Konkan, Chandrapur and Bhandara where only rice is consumed and in the rest of the areas it is Jowar. Taking into consideration these difficulties in regard to irrigation, will the Central Government think of giving additional quota of rice to Maharashtra ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We keep on considering the requests from month to month. This suggestion will also be kept in view.

Housing Shortage in the Country

*429. **SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the need of houses in rural as well as in urban areas ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the latest estimates about the shortage of dwelling units in urban and rural areas in different States ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (b). Based upon the census data the National Buildings Organisation (NBO) has estimated the current housing shortage

as 24.7 million dwelling units (18.8 million in rural areas and 5.9 million in urban areas), the State-wise position is given in the Annexure.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to encourage housing activity :—

(i) Augmenting the plan outlay for housing from Rs. 600.92 crores in the Fifth Five Year Plan to Rs. 1490.87 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan (The outlay for Seventh Plan is yet to be determined).

(ii) Giving priority to the poorer sections of the society and shelterless persons in public sector housing efforts.

(iii) Stepping up the investment level of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) to Rs. 600 crores ; Provision of loans at concessional rate of interest to economically weaker sections both in rural and urban areas.

(iv) Raising the quantum of bank loans available for housing to Rs. 150 crores in 1983.

(v) To encourage private sector investments and construction of residential accommodation, several tax concessions under the Income Tax Act, Wealth Tax and Gift Tax have been given.

(vi) To encourage cooperative group housing efforts in large cities, Apartment Ownership Act has been introduced in Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(vii) The revised 20-Point Programme includes the programmes of rural house sites-cum construction assistance and housing of the economically weaker sections of the society.