

black-soil, F-2 quality, Rs. 11.25 per Kg. and for Light-soil, L-2 quality, Rs. 12.0 per Kg. These prices are for tobacco. For cotton, that is for F.414/H-777, the price announced is Rs. 440.0 per quintal and for the H.4 quality, the price announced is Rs. 550.00 per quintal.

[*Transiation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: The price of paddy and rice should be uniform in the country. The Government should consider this suggestion. I want to know as to why prices in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh differ? In the case of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, the difference in the price of paddy and rice is in the range of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. It is not helping the farmers. What are the reasons for such a difference?

MR. SPEAKER: You please give the reply.

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I have stated that a uniform price is followed all over the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Why do the procurement prices vary from state to state? What are the reasons for it?

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We do not declare State-wise prices. The prices are declared for the whole of the country.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, the procurement price of F.C.I. is the same for Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and so on. There is no difference in price paid by the F.C.I. It is not a fact that in the matter of procurement of grains in Punjab and Haryana, the FCI is allowing some margin to be paid for certain people who supply these foodgrains to the FCI either

through State agencies or otherwise? It is a fact that Rs. 21.00 crores were paid in the form of commission to the middlemen for the purchase of these foodgrains in Punjab and Haryana. Will the Government allow the other States supplying foodgrains to the Central pool the same facility which is being extended to Punjab and Haryana, particularly the States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, etc. which are supplying foodgrains to the FCI? In that way, you are technically correct that the support price is the same all over the country. But if you add these incidentals, the price would vary. I want a categorical answer to this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The FCI is not under control. The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies knows about that commission they are giving. I can say about the prices declared by the Government. We fix the price and we declare it and at that price the FCI has to purchase the foodgrains.

Waste of Fruits for Want of Proper Packing

*114. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY + :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of fruit goes waste in Himachal Pradesh for want of proper packing;

(b) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh has approached the Bhabha Atomic Centre for the use of radiation technology for the packing of fruits to save the forest wealth in that State;

(c) whether Union Government propose to assist Government of Himachal Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). A Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores has been provided in the annual plan for 1986-87 and Rs. 3.7 crores in the annual plan for 1987-88 for contributing towards equity of the company proposed to be set up for manufacture of the Corrugated Fibre Board (CFB) Cartons by the Government of Himachal Pradesh for packing fruits.

SHRIM. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, generally in any package programme a loss of 10% to 15% will be there. In Himachal Pradesh, the losses will be more than that because of shortage of packing material. The hon. Minister is very vehement in his reply to parts (a) and (b) of my question by saying 'No, Sir'. I do not know from where he got this information. I want to know from the hon. Minister what will be the capacity of the Corrugated Fibre Board Cartons to be manufactured by the Government of Himachal Pradesh and how much quantity will be exported by them.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The Government of Himachal Pradesh is putting up this factory. I have no details about the capacity etc. of this factory.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to prevent damage, there are three methods of packing ripe fruit. We can either use wooden board boxes, cartons or radiation technology for this purpose. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to which is the cheapest method and whether Government will provide assistance in adopting such a method?

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, so far as the radiation technology is concerned, it is not standardised and is not adopted by

anybody. So, the question of its adoption does not arise.

So far as the other methods are concerned, there is a great drain on our forests and therefore, it has been decided by the Government of Himachal Pradesh to supply the corrugated fibre board boxes at a cheaper rate to the farmers. This is subsidised, and at present these are purchased from the market and supplied to the farmers. But now they are putting up a factory in H.P so that they can manufacture and can supply to the farmers at subsidised rates.

Policy to Promote Rural Development

*115. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI + :
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have urged the States to adopt new strategies and policy-initiatives to promote rural development;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been drawn up for the speedy implementation of the strategies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANANDA YADAV): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which is a major poverty alleviation programme, the State Governments have been advised to adopt