

Drought Prone Areas

*362. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to declare a district as drought prone area if most of the blocks in the district are covered under the Drought Prone Area Programme; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) and (b). No Sir, The Block is considered as the lowest unit for demarcation of an area as drought prone. Therefore, only block of a district so demarcated are treated as drought prone area rather than the entire district.

Technology Mission on Literacy

*363. SHRIJAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will

the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed to be achieved during the Seventh Plan under the National Literacy Mission and to what extent it has been achieved so far in Orissa.

(b) whether the State Orissa is lagging far behind in the field of literacy; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to step up the programme of educating people in that State under the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Launched on 5th May, 1988, the National Literacy Mission envisages that 30 million persons would be made literate by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. The position regarding actual achievements during the first four years of the Seventh Plan in respect of the State of Orissa is as under:-

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Achievement (in lakhs)</i>
1.	1985-86	1.46
2.	1986-87	1.44
3.	1987-88	2.79
4.	1988-89	3.58

(b) According to 1981 census, the literacy rate in Orissa (34.23%) was lower than the National Literacy rate of 36.23%.

(c) Steps being taken to step up the adult education programme in the State of Orissa include running of :-

(i) 19 projects, each of 300 centre, under the central scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects;

(ii) 12 projects, each of 300 centres, under the State Adult Education Programme;

- (iii) 1120 projects, adult education centres by Nehru Yuva Kendras; and
- (iv) 720 adult education centres by 17 voluntary agencies.

Besides, 19250 NSS Volunteers are expected to be involved in the programme during the current financial year. A large number of adult illiterates is proposed to be covered by adopting mass campaign approach, involvement of school students and running of two cycles of adult education centres in a year.

Procurement Price of Wheat for Coming Marketing Season

3292. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representations to increase the procurement price of wheat for the coming marketing season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present procurement price of wheat and the corresponding price during the previous marketing seasons;

(d) whether procurement price of any other major produce like cashew, rice, etc. is likely to be fixed/increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b). The Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices on Price Policy for Rabi Crops including wheat for 1990-91 marketing season is under

consideration of the Government.

(c) The procurement Prices of wheat for 1989-90 and 1988-89 marketing seasons were fixed at Rs. 183/- and Rs. 173/- per quintal respectively.

(d) and (e). The procurement/minimum support prices fixed by the Government for Kharif crops for the 1989-90 season are as follows:-

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Price (Rs. per quintal)</i>
Paddy (Common)	175/-
Coarse Coreasls (Jowar Bajra, Maze, Ragi)	155/-
Kharif pulses (Tur, Arhar, Moong, Urad)	400/-
Groundnut-in-shell	470/-
Soyabean Black	305/-
Soyabean Yellow	350/-
Sunflower Seed	500/-
Cotton H-4-14/H-777	540/-
H-4	650/-
Jute TD-5	280/-

The minimum support price for cashew is not fixed by the Government as it has not been brought into the ambit of price support operation.

Purchase of Foreign Flag Vessel of Greece

3293. DR. B.L.SHAILESH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation (MSTC) purchased a foreign flag vessel "MV AMNESA DYO" of Greece in 1985;

(b) whether any investigation had been