

IV. Southern Region

(Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala)

A. Sequence Cropping

Irrigated			Rainfed	
Kharif	Rabi	Zaid	Kharif	Rabi
Rice	—	Rice	—	Greengram
Rice	—	Rice	—	Blackgram
Rice	—	Rice	—	Gowpea
			Greengram	—
			Greengram	—
			Gowpea	—
			Bajra/Sorghum	—
				Sorghum
				Safflower
				Ragi
				Gowpea/Horsegram

B. Intercropping/Mixed Cropping

- (i) Sorghum/Bajra + Redgram
- (ii) Groundnut + Redgram
- (iii) Redgram Ragi
- (iv) Tapioca + Gowpea/Horsegram

Agricultural Prices Commission

*931. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the revised terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission; and

(b) what are the objectives in the revision of the terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). A copy of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Resolution No. 14011/2/78-Econ. Py., dated 5.3.80 containing the revised terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission is placed on the Table of the Sabha. The objectives of revising the terms of reference have been mentioned in the Resolution.

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The Agricultural Prices Commission was set up in January, 1965 to advise

on the price policy of agricultural commodities with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and the consumer. Over the years, the Commission has helped in the evolution of a stable and positive price policy for agricultural commodities.

The agricultural situation has considerably changed since the setting up of the Commission. The area under irrigation and intensity of cropping are going up steadily. Consumption of fertilizers and pesticides has increased. Investment in Agriculture through institutional and other sources has risen. A number of policy decisions have been taken to give high priority to Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agricultural production has as a result of these steps achieved a reasonable degree of stability and a process of increasing market orientation of the agricultural sector has set in. It is hence considered necessary to modify

and expand the terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission would be as under:—

1. To advise on the price policy of paddy, rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, gram, tur, moong, urad, sugarcane, groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, rapeseed and mustard, cotton, jute, tobacco and such other commodities as the Government may indicate from time to time with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and the consumer.

2. While recommending the price policy and the relative price structure, the Commission may keep in view the following:

(i) The need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for developing a production pattern broadly in the light of national requirements;

(ii) The need to ensure rational utilisation of land, water and other production resources;

(iii) The likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy, particularly on the cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc.

3. The Commission may also suggest such non-price measures as would facilitate the achievement of the objective set out in I above.

4. To recommend from time to time, in respect of different agricultural commodities, measures necessary to make the price policy effective.

5. To take into account the changes in terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

6. To examine, where necessary, the prevailing methods and cost of marketing of agricultural commodities in different regions, suggest measures

to reduce costs of marketing and recommend fair price margins for different stages of marketing.

7. To keep under review the developing price situation and to make appropriate recommendations, as and when necessary, within the framework of the overall price policy.

8. To undertake studies in respect of different crops as may be prescribed by Government from time to time.

9. To keep under review studies relating to the price policy and arrangements for collection of information regarding agricultural prices and other related data and suggest improvements in the same, and to organise research studies in the field of price policy.

10. To advise on any problems relating to agricultural prices and production that may be referred to it by Government from time to time.

The Commission will maintain close touch with other agencies dealing with matters having a bearing on prices and production, including the Food Corporation of India, the Cotton Corporation of India and the Jute Corporation of India.

The Commission will determine its own procedures. It will be free to call for notes, memoranda, results of studies, data and any other material relevant to its work from official and non-official bodies, and hold discussions with them.

The Commission will submit reports to Government as and when necessary in respect of different commodities or groups thereof.

Sd/-

(M. S. SWAMINATHAN),

Secy. to the Govt. of India.