

(b) In order to check the prices of wheat in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the following measures were taken:—

- (i) The restrictions on inter-district movement of wheat were withdrawn in the surplus Western districts of U. P. where the retailers were given facilities to purchase wheat directly from the producers from any area without giving the levy.
- (ii) The wholesale and retail prices of open market wheat fixed at Rs. 158/- and Rs 161/- per quintal respectively as from 24-6-1974
- (iii) Besides sale through the fair price shops, wheat is also being supplied to the general public at Rs 161/- per quintal from selected cooperative stores.
- (iv) Wheat licenses are checked as and when complaints are received. A special dehoarding drive was also launched in Delhi in June 1974

Strike by employees of F.C.I Calcutta

*297 SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the employees of Food Corporation of India, Calcutta are on strike for the past few days,

(b) if so, the reason for the strike; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government to meet the demands of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) to (c). The departmentalised workers of the Food Corporation of India at Calcutta are on illegal strike since 27-1-1975. In the strike notice, the FCI Workers' Union

raised a number of demands regarding their service conditions etc. though their main demand pertained to the re-instatement of 887 workers retrenched as a consequence of the dehiring of surplus storage capacity by the Food Corporation of India in Calcutta complex. The employer-wise break-up of the retrenched employees is as under:—

Food Corporation of India	386
Central Warehousing Corporation	287
West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation	214
TOTAL	887

The demands have been considered by the Food Corporation of India. They have replied to the Workers' Union on 29-1-1975 in respect of each of their demands. In the last offer made in February, 1975, the F. C. I. have proposed to take back 325 to 350 retrenched workers subject to verification of antecedents, medical examination and an undertaking being given for maintenance of discipline and industrial peace.

Proposal to increase price of Fertiliser

*298 SHRI N K SANGHI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the price of fertiliser,

(b) whether the present price of fertiliser is already high and small farmers are finding it difficult to cope with the present price and

(c) if so, the justification for the proposed increase and in what way productivity and the interest of the small farmers are going to be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) The Government fixes the maximum retail prices of urea, ammonium sulphate and calcium ammonium nitrate both imported and

indigenously produced. A Central Fertiliser Pool consisting of imported fertilisers is operated by the Central Government. The retail prices of fertilisers distributed from the Pool are fixed by the Central Government. The Central Fertiliser Pool is meant to operate on a no-loss-no-profit basis and provides for a periodical review of the financial position of the Pool. One such review is being made

(b) and (c). There was a steep increase in the prices of fertilisers, amounting on an average to 80 per cent, made with effect from the 1st June, 1974, caused by an enormous increase in the cost of imported fertilisers. To protect the interests of the small farmers in regard to purchase of fertilisers, the Government have increased the limit of production credit which can be availed of by the cultivators. In the areas covered by the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Project, there is also a provision for marginal farmers having holdings up to one hectare, getting subsidies for inputs upto 33-1/3 per cent, subject to

a maximum of Rs. 100/- per season and Rs. 200/- spread over two seasons in one year or two years.

Levy received from rice millers and Small producers

*299. SHRIMATI ROZA DESH-
PANDE;
SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the levy Government has received from the rice millers and small producers in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha showing the procurement of rice and paddy, State-wise, during the current kharif marketing season, 1974-75, which includes levy received from millers/traders in respect of rice and from producers of paddy, in accordance with the rates prescribed in different States.

Statement

Statement showing the procurement of rice and paddy Statewise during the current kharif marketing season, 1974-75.

(In Thousands tonnes)

STATE	Procurement 1974-75		
	Rice	Paddy	Total Rice (including paddy in terms of Rice) (As per information on 5-3-1975)
1 Andhra Pradesh	344	277	496
2 Assam . . . . .	..	129	86
3 Bihar	26	34	48
4 Gujarat . . . . .	..	15	10
5 Haryana	231	Neg.	231
6 Jammu & Kashmir . . . . .	..	36	24
7 Karnataka . . . . .	..	117	78
8 Kerala . . . . .	..	23	15
9 Madhya Pradesh	46	116	124
10 Maharashtra . . . . .	..	80	57
11 Orissa	22	18	84
12 Punjab	689	265	865
13 Rajasthan . . . . .	..	12	8
14 Tamil Nadu . . . . .	..	480	317
15 Uttar Pradesh	238	3	240
16 West Bengal	70	116	147
17 Others	1	17	12
TOTAL	1667	1688	2792