

(b) Procurement of wheat coincides with the period of market arrivals, i.e. from 1st April to 30th May, 2002. In line with this, procurement of wheat by public procuring agencies was brought to a close in all the wheat procuring States from 31-5-2002, except in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The procurement period was extended on the requests of the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar upto 15-6-2002, 30-6-2002 and 15-7-2002 respectively.

(c) to (e) The Government of West Bengal has been procuring rice through the levy route under Decentralized Procurement Scheme. However, in order to safeguard the interest of farmers and to ensure that farmers get Minimum Support Price for their produce, Government of West Bengal has recently decided to procure paddy and rice by also involving the co-operative sector.

### **Implementation of consolidated food law**

191. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are thinking of proposing a consolidated food law to be implemented by one Ministry instead of the present eight;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how this new law is going to be implemented; and

(c) whether the said law would be able to ensure that mounting storage of foodgrains does not occur and timely distribution plans are formulated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to propose legislation and other changes for preparing a modern Integrated Food Law and related regulations. Action has already been initiated in formulating such proposals. As these are only in a preliminary stage, details are yet to be worked out.