

Support price for Paddy 3231.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the support price of paddy as announced;
- (b) how Government propose to control prices of rice, which have already gone up very high in the open market, adding to inflationary pressure; and
- (c) the steps taken to supply rice under PDS at affordable rates to the intended beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy (common) has been fixed at Rs. 380.00 per quintal for the 1996-97 season. The MSPs for fine and superfine varieties of paddy have been fixed at Rs. 395 and Rs. 415 per quintal respectively.

(b) The annual rise in the wholesale price index of rice is modest at around 7 per cent. However, the Government is undertaking open sale of Rice in different parts of the country to meet local requirements. Allocation of Rice from central pool to various States/UTs for the PDS/RPDS is made on month to month basis, having regard to stocks available, seasonal availability, relevant needs and offtake trends.

(c) Rice is being supplied at subsidised rate under Public Distribution System.

The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of rice for areas covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) are further specially subsidised and are Rs. 50/- per quintal lower than the CIP for Public Distribution System.

**Production, Requirement and Import of Chemical Fertilizers**

3232. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of various varieties of chemical fertilizers that was required in the country during the last three years;
- (b) how much of these varieties are produced in the country;
- (c) how much of the various varieties of chemical fertilizers are imported and foreign out-go therefor during the last three years;
- (d) have any measures been taken to minimise dependence on these imports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the achievement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) The quantity of fertiliser nutrients required for consumption during the last three years was:—

Year	N	P	K
1993-94	81.89	26.69	9.08
1994-95	95.07	29.31	11.25
1995-96*	98.24	28.98	11.56

\*Provisional

(b) Quantities of different fertilisers produced in the country during the last three years is given in the Statement annexed. (See below)

(c) Quantities of major fertilisers imported during the last 3 years and their cost and freight (C&F) value was as under: