

Involvement of Co-operatives in the Procurement of Foodgrains

631. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the co-operative sector is involved in the procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, what is the extent of involvement; and

(c) whether Government propose to further increase its role in the procurement of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the 1984-85 wheat and rice marketing seasons, 24.55 lakh tonnes of wheat, 2.48 lakh tonnes of paddy and 1.3 thousand tonnes of rice are reported to have been procured directly for public stocks by cooperatives in the country, as on 20-3-1985.

(c) The share of each State agency in procurement is decided by the State Government.

Uniform price for mass consumption commodities

632. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to supply the commodities of mass consumption at uniform prices throughout the country as recommended by the B.D. Pande Committee on Freight Equalisation Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): The Central and State Governments are making efforts to strengthen and improve the Public Distribution System so as to make available various essential commodities to the people, particularly, the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society, at prices which are more or less uniform.

Implementation of drought prone areas programme in Orissa

633. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) the objectives of the Drought Prone Areas Programme;

(b) the amount of money allocated to Orissa for implementing the programme during the last three years; and

(c) the areas covered under the said Programme in Orissa during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The objectives of the Drought Prone Areas Programme are as under:—

(i) promoting a more productive dry-land agriculture on the basis of the soil-water-climate resource of the area;

(ii) development and productive use of water resources of the area;

(iii) soil and moisture conservation including promotion of proper land use practices;

(iv) afforestation including farm forestry; and

(v) livestock development including development of pasture and fodder resources.

(b) Total of funds, including State share, allocated to Orissa for the programme during the last three years: 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 were Rs. 515 lakhs, Rs. 585 lakhs and Rs. 585 lakhs respectively.

(c) Area covered under the programme in Orissa for the corresponding years was about 1.2 lakh sq. kms. in 39 blocks contained in the districts given below:

Phulbani	14 blocks
Kalahandi	11 blocks
Bolangir	8 blocks
Sambalpur	6 blocks