

(b) whether it is a fact that lot of malpractice is going on in payment; and

(c) if so, the stand of his Ministry to control and monitor this payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Import of rice

2325. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India was a major supplier in the global rice trade for two decades and it is now likely to import rice;

(b) whether despite failure of monsoons and occurrence of droughts leading to failure of crops during the last two decades, import of rice was not resorted to;

(c) whether now import of rice does not seem to be ruled out; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) India is a supplier in global rice trade for the last two decades. The export of rice from India has ranged between 5 lac to 60 lac tonnes per year in the last 2 decades. Despite failure of monsoon there was no proposal to import rice till date.

(c) and (d) For the current year, Government has assessed the stock position of rice and decided that import of rice for Central Pool is not required at this stage. However, if trend of procurement shows shortfall, the Government may, at an appropriate time, decide to consider import of rice to ensure availability of rice in the domestic market at affordable price. All the options are open regarding import of rice subject to domestic availability, process and consumption.

There has been a record procurement of 226.89 lakh tonnes and 253.82 lakh tonnes of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. Similarly, record procurement of 287.36 and 336.84 lakh tonnes of rice have been made during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. With the increase in procurement of wheat and rice in last two Kharif Marketing Season/Rabi Marketing Season (KMS/RMS) and an estimated procurement of 262 lakh tonnes of rice in current KMS 2009-10, the stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the requirement of Targeted Public Distribution Systems (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes at current level of allocation.

Use of Neem based pesticides

†2326. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI SHRIGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.