

Foodgrains Production Targets for the Rabi

1282. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Ministry had fixed foodgrains production target of 62 million tonnes for the Rabi season to offset the losses suffered due to drought, floods and cyclones during the Kharief (season);

(b) whether the targets have been revised following an inter-Ministerial meeting held recently and the revised targets aim at the production of 42 million tonnes of wheat, 10 million tonnes of pulses and 5.64 million tonnes of oil seeds; and

(c) what are the measures likely to be adopted to raise the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In order to mount a Compensatory Rabi Production Campaign during the 1982-83 rabi season to make up the losses suffered due to drought, floods and cyclones during the kharif season, an operational target of 62 million tonnes of rabi foodgrains was fixed against the original target of 58.5 million tonnes, as indicated below:

(Million tonnes)	
Foodgrains	Operational Target
Wheat	42.0
Rice	4a
Jowar	3.8
Bailey	ao
Pulses	10.0
TOTAL:	6a. c

In the case of oilseeds, the operational target for rabi 1982-83 is 5.84 million tonnes and not 5.64 million tonnes.

(c) A rabi production campaign was mounted in the major rabi growing States, under which the following important measures were taken to increase the production of rabi cereals, pulses and oilseeds:

(i) Timely and adequate supply of seeds, fertilizers, weedicides and pesticides to farmers.

(ii) Timely sowing of rabi crops including wheat, rapeseed and mustard, gram and other rabi pulses.

(iii) Adequate and timely supply of electricity, diesel and canal water to farmers at the sowing time and also at the critical stages of crop growth. To ensure this, Joint Central Teams were sent to the major rabi growing States to make an on-the-spot assessment of supply of electricity and other inputs to farmers and make recommendations to improve the situation, wherever necessary. The findings of the Central Teams regarding shortage of electricity, canal water etc. were immediately brought to the notice of Chief Secretaries and Agriculture Production Commissioners and State Electricity Boards of the concerned States for taking remedial action.

(iv) Intensification of plant protection measures for timely detection and control of pests and diseases particularly on Arhar, Gram, Rapeseed and mustard crops.

(v) Timely provision of credit to farmers by organising credit melas etc

(vi) Optimum utilisation of available water, particularly in the commands of irrigation project, by undertaking repairs and maintenance of irrigation works and introduction of Warabandi.

(vii) Intensification of extension efforts for educating and motivating the farmers to adopt improved technologies to increase rabi production.

A check-list of 16 Points, including the above, was sent to the State Governments for implementation for the success of the rabi campaign. The Area Officers and other senior officers on the Department monitored the action on the check-list during their visits to the States.

Prices fixed by the Agricultural price Commission

1283. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the prices recommended by the A.P.C., especially for the sugar-cane, rice and wheat are far below remunerative;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the Steps propose to be taken to ensure reasonable price to farmers; and

(d) whether farmers representatives are associated with A.P.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The Agricultural Prices Commission makes recommendations on support prices after taking into account the available data on cost of production, latest prices of inputs, market trends and other related factors, j The basic policy is to recommend prices which cover the cost of production and provide a margin of profit. The procurement prices for wheat and paddy fixed by Government are remunerative. Prices received by sugarcane growers are also remunerative. Rising production of these commodities in recent years except under conditions of widespread drought, provide a testimony that the prices received by farmers are remunerative. Cost of production and price situation are kept constantly under review by Government and it is ensured that the farmers receive reasonable prices.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Merger of Agriculture Library and Economic and Statistical Library

1284. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Library in Krishi Bhavan is being merged with the Economics and Statistical Library, along with its technical staff for technical guidance of the E & S Librarian;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Library is being merged with the departmental libraries for the third time; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is not in a position to run its own library independently and save its merger every time, if So, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Population without Homes

1285. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population and percentage, State-wise without any houses as on the 31st December, 1982;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to extend housing facilities to all such persons and by when; and

(c) what will be the amount required on that account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) Figures of Houseless population as per the 1981 census have not yet been released by the Registrar General of India. According to 1971 Census, the number of houseless people in India was 1,985,761. Statewise figures are given in the Statement. (See below)