

in specially fabricated tankers. Milk is being sent through rail milk tankers from Anand, Jalgaon and Dhulia to Bombay, Anand, Vijayawada and Guntur to Calcutta; Anand, Palanpur, Ajmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner to Delhi and Erode to Madras. The Indian Dairy Corporation has placed orders for additional 616 road milk tankers with a total capacity of 70.45 lakh litres and 16 rail milk tankers with a total capacity of 4.5 lakh litres. Facilities have been created for storage of 5300 MT of skim milk powder and 1200 MT of butter oil and additional facilities for 3000 MT of skim milk powder and deep freeze facilities for storing 1000 MT of butter are under construction.

(c) No assistance is being sought from foreign countries for the operation of National Milk Grid.

(d) No, Sir.

State Governments Recommendations for Higher paddy price

990. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several State Governments have recommended for higher price of paddy as suggested by the Agricultural Prices Commission; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procurement price of paddy Common variety for 1982-83 season has been fixed at Rs. 122 per quintal after taking into consideration the recommendations of Agricultural Prices Commission, the

views of the State Governments, concerned economic Ministries as also the Planning Commission. The procurement price for 1982-83 season marks an increase of about 6.1 per cent over that fixed for 1981-82 season and about 16.2 per cent over that for 1980-81 season.

Seed shortage for Rabi Crops

991. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in greater part of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab almost all the wheat was spoilt by untimely rains during the last threshing season causing acute shortage particularly of wheat for seed;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to ensure timely supply of wheat seed to the cultivators for the forthcoming Rabi sowing; and

(c) whether such a supply of seed would be done on subsidised rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that a substantial quantity of wheat and particularly wheat seed was damaged in the wheat producing State of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan on account of unseasonal rains and hail storms during last week of April and first week of May 1982. The situation was reviewed in May, June and September, 1982 and the following steps have been taken to avoid such damages and to make adequate quantities of good planting material available for the forthcoming Rabi wheat crop:

- (i) The States were advised to prepare field manual in easy and simple language for the use of farmers for post harvest care of wheat.
- (ii) It was decided to launch a campaign for drying of stored wheat as it was likely to get damaged on account of high moisture contents.
- (iii) The States were advised to identify wheat seed which was genetically pure but could not meet the germination standard and to use it as seed by reducing the price and increasing the seed rate.
- (iv) The States were advised to earmark good lots of grains procured by the State Agencies and to use them as seed.
- (v) Certified wheat seed available with the National Seeds Corporation and procured from surplus areas has been allotted to the deficit States.
- (vi) The Food Corporation of India on the request of the Government have identified 171,000 tonnes of good quality wheat grain which can be used as seed. All the State Governments have been informed about the location of these stocks.
- (vii) The National Seeds Corporation have been asked to extend laboratory facilities to the States for testing the germination of grains to be used as seed.

(c) No subsidy is available on wheat seed under any scheme of the Government of India.

Financial Assistance to surplus Land Assignees

992. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any financial assistance scheme for surplus land assignees;

(b) if so, what is the amount allocated for this purpose during the period 1975-76 to 1980-81; and

(c) the break-up of the amount spent by the State Governments and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the period 1975-76 to 1980-81 funds amounting to Rs. 15.28 crores were released by the Central Government to the States against which the amount disbursed, according to information so far received from the State Governments, is Rs. 10,18,79,055. Its break-up is as follows:

States	Amount utilised (in Rs)
Andhra Pradesh—	1,74,02,148
Assam—	56,80,291
Bihar—	1,45,99,995
Gujarat—	97,691
Himachal Pradesh	98,661
Karnataka—	5,23,648
Kerala—	38,88,411
Madhya Pradesh—	25,22,422
Maharashtra—	2,99,84,984
Orissa—	77,47,477
Rajasthan—	55,81,270
Tamil Nadu—	29,02,590
Tripura—	19,435
Uttar Pradesh	92,46,628
West Bengal—	15,83,404
Total :	10,18,79,055

Leasing of Agar wood trees Forest Mahal

993. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: