

(c) Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission has undertaken detailed evaluation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) projects started in 1975-76. The report of Programme Evaluation Organisation has not yet been finalised. In the meanwhile, 117 additional projects have been sanctioned in 1978 and 1979.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of Paddy by F.C.I.

1903. PROF. N. G. RANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has been unable to open more purchasing centres and also unable to purchase not more than half of the paddy offered for sale in many of its purchasing centres;

(b) whether any efforts are being made or proposed to be made in this regard; and if so, whether Government propose to increase the quantum of finance needed by the Food Corporation of India to enable it to purchase all paddy and rice that are offered to be purchased at support prices, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to ensure that paddy growing peasants are not obliged to sell their paddy to merchants at prices, much lower than support prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The arrangements for extending price support is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Food Corporation of India is one of the agencies deployed for the purpose.

The share of procurement work to be handled by the Food Corporation of India and the number of purchase centres to be opened are determined by the concerned State Governments. While in Andhra Pradesh the Food Corporation of India is undertaking price support operations an agent of the State Government, they are not in the field in Karnataka and Orissa as no procurement work has been entrusted to them by the State Governments. The Food Corporation of India had adequate finances for food-grain procurement. It may be stated that price support is extended only to agricultural producers and not to rice millers. Upto 17th March, 1979, in the current Kharif Marketing season of 1978-79, the Food Corporation of India have purchased a total of about 22½ lakh tonnes of paddy under price support operations against 10.23 lakh tonnes procured in the corresponding period of the last Kharif marketing season 1977-78 as shown below:—

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

State	Kharif marketing season	
	1978-79 (as on 17th March, 1979)	1977-78 (corres- ponding period)
1. Andhra Pradesh	234.4	Neg.
2. Assam	23.4	8.0
3. Haryana	268.8	111.4
4. Jammu & Kashmir	—	—
5. Karnataka	—	—
6. Kerala	—	—
7. Madhya Pradesh	8.0	Neg.
8. Maharashtra	—	—
9. Orissa	—	—