

holders in Delhi through fair price shops is of poor quality and gives a very bad smell; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) On investigation, certain complaints received by the FCI about poor quality of grains were not substantiated. In one case the shopkeeper was found to have substituted the stock received from the FCI depot.

While issuing stocks from the FCI depots grains of only acceptable quality are issued. A jointly drawn and sealed sample is also handed over to the fair price shop owners for display in order to enable the consumers to compare the stocks issued to them with that of the sample.

Procurement Target of Foodgrains

*163. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

SHRI V. B. RAJU:

SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:

SHRI MANORANJAN ROY:

SHRI K. C. PANDA:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI LOKANATH MISHRA:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSA-
FIR:

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. Z. A. AHMED:

SHRI J. S. TILAK:

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANI
SHANKAR JOSHI:

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:

SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement target fixed for various types of foodgrains in each State during the current season, and

(b) whether the target so fixed has been fulfilled, and if not, what have been the impediments in achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) Two statements (I and II) are placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement I.

Against the target of 8.1 million tonnes of wheat, the procurement has been about 4.5 million tonnes giving a shortfall of about 3.6 million tonnes (rounded). The reasons for slow progress in achieving the target of wheat procurement are given in the Annexure.

So far as Kharif cereals are concerned, the quantities so far procured are 2.86 million tonnes of rice and 2.91 lakh tonnes of coarse grains. The procurement season is still on. Some of the reasons for the slow progress of procurement in some States are as follows:—

1. Damage to the crop on account of late and untimely rains, adverse weather conditions at the time of harvesting, infestations etc. in some States.

2. The open market prices of Kharif foodgrains are in many states ruling higher than the procurement prices and this has acted as an impediment.

3. General price rise in the case of other commodities has also adversely affected the pace of procurement.

4. A tendency on the part of producers and others to hold back the grain in the expectation of better prices later in the year.

5. A general climate and psychology of scarcity.

6. Lack of consensus on the part of political parties regarding procurement effort.

Annexure to Statement I

The slow progress of procurement of wheat during the current Rabi marketing season (1973-74) was attributed to the reduced flow of supplies of wheat from the rural areas, which is smaller than that recorded in the last two years, mainly on account of the following reasons:

(i) The production of wheat according to some State Government was less than what was anticipated earlier;

(ii) With-holding of wheat by the farmers because of the feeling that the procurement price of Rs. 76/- per quintal of wheat was very low as compared to the prevailing prices of other foodgrains;

(iii) The capacity to hold back the stock, had improved with the higher wheat productivity in the past few years. The minimum financial requirements of the farmers were met by them by selling other crops like gram, barley, etc., which were fetching relatively higher prices;

(iv) A tendency on the part of the producers to hold back the grain in the

expectation that they would get higher prices during the lean season later in the year;

(iv) A general psychology of shortages among the masses which led to a large scale hoarding of foodgrains not only by the producers, but also by the traders and consumers;

(vi) General shortage of foodgrains in the open market coupled with restricted issues from the public distribution system;

(vii) Concerted efforts and propaganda by the wholesale traders and other interested parties against the new policy;

(viii) Shortage of different consumer goods in the market at the harvesting time particularly vanaspati, sugar, cement, diesel etc. The resultant price rise spiral acted as an irritant to the producer who felt that the discipline of price control was being imposed on him alone; and

(ix) Agitation in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Bihar by the opposition parties against the wheat take-over policy.

Statement II

Targets fixed for procurement of Wheat, Rice and Coarse grains during 1973-74.

(000 Tnnes)

States	Targets of Procurement		
	Rabi (April, 73— March, 74)	Kharif (Nov-73— Oct, 74)	
	Wheat	Rice	Coarse Grains
Andhra Pradesh	20	600	100
Assam	150	100	25
Bihar	600	100	25
Gujarat	150	50	150
Haryana	1,300	350	50
Jammu & Kashmir	40	50	..
Kerala	125	600	100
Madhya Pradesh	400	200	400
Maharashtra	..	275	200
Karnataka	18	400	..
Orissa	3,300	950	200
Punjab	300	..	250
Rajasthan	..	350	25
Tamil Nadu	1,800	300	150
Uttar Pradesh	100	500	..
West Bengal	90
Others
TOTAL	8,118	5,000	1,850