

22.5 million hectares. Besides, efforts are being made to promote fertilizer use in proper balance suited to the needs of soil and the crop alongwith appropriate micro-nutrients and other inputs. To facilitate this, soil testing facilities have been provided and the farmers are given training in the efficient and balanced use of fertilizers. In addition, development of minor irrigation facilities, intensification of plant protection measures, land development and soil conservation are some of the other important measures undertaken to increase productivity of land.

(c) The per hectare yield of foodgrains has increased from 629 kgs. in 1965-66 (the year before the introduction of the new agricultural strategy) to 858 kgs. in 1971-72.

FOODGRAINS PURCHASED BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

1300. SHRI K. C. PANDA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGARLAMUDI :
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains purchased by the Food Corporation of India during the last three months ;

(b) the rates at which various types of foodgrains were purchased and the total amount spent for the purpose; and

(c) the basis on which the prices were fixed while purchasing the foodgrains from the producers and how did those prices compare with prices in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) :

(a) 11-70: lakhs tonnes.

(b) A statement is attached. (see below)

(c) The prices for foodgrains purchased by Food Corporation of India are fixed by

Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and in consultation with the State Governments. In the context of drought situation in the country, the open market prices of foodgrains were generally ruling higher than the procurement prices fixed.

STATEMENT

	Rs. per Quintal
1. Procurements Prices	
1. Maize	58.00
2. Jowar	58.00
3. Bajra	60.00
4. Rice & Paddy—	
(a) Paddy	47.00
to	
" " " " " " " "	65.00
(b) Rice	78.34
to	
" " " " " " " "	141.30
5. Pulses	152.89
	(Average Price)
2. Amount spent on Purchases	115.06
	crores.

TRANSPORT AGENCY SYSTEM

1301: SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the transport agency system now prevailing all over the country ;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study of the effect of the system on the small transport operators of the country;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to legislate prohibiting such system in the interest of the small operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government have not made any independent study of the working of the goods booking agencies. However, in the evidence tendered before the Road Transport Taxation Enquiry Committee, it was alleged that the margin of profit retained by these middlemen was high. The Committee suggested in its report that it is very desirable that these middlemen should get only a fixed percentage by way of commission and that the business of booking agencies should be regulated and brought under control by a licensing system.

(d) Provisions have been included in Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, *vide* Section 66A, empowering the State Governments to make rules for introducing a system of licensing for Booking Agencies. Model Rules on the subject were circulated to the State Governments for guidance in January, 1970. According to the information so far, available, about ten State Governments/ Union Territories have already published the necessary rules. The matter is being pursued vigorously with the remaining States/Union Territories.

AMENDMENT OF CEILING LAWS ON URBAN PROPERTY BY STATES

1302. SHRI SWAISING SISODIA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the State Governments have since amended the ceiling laws in their respective States as per Central directions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI

OM MEHTA) : (a) No directions have been issued to the States for amending their State legislations.

(b) Does not arise.

AYURVEDIC UNIVERSITIES

1303. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States which have opened Ayurvedic University for the development of indigenous system of medicines; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to start such a University in every State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KUSKU) :

(a) Gujarat.

(b) No.

विदेशी विद्यार्थियों को छात्रवृत्तियाँ

1304. श्री ओम् प्रकाश त्यागी : क्या शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) देश के विभिन्न कालेजों में अध्ययन कर रहे कितने विदेशी विद्यार्थियों को भारत सरकार की ओर से छात्रवृत्तियाँ मिली हुई हैं ; और

(ख) इन छात्रवृत्तियों पर सरकार द्वारा कुल कितनी धन-राशि व्यय की जा रही है ?

†[SCHOLARSHIPS TO FOREIGN STUDENTS

1304. SHRI O. P. TYAGI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(2) the number of foreign students who have been granted scholarships by Government of India and are studying in various colleges in the country; and

(b) the total amount of money being spent by Government on these scholarships?]

† [English translation.