

RISE IN THE PRICES OF FOODGRAINS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

*18. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sent an expert to Andhra Pradesh to investigate into the causes for the rise in prices of foodgrains there; and

(b) if so, whether any report has been submitted by him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that the prices of foodgrains in Andhra are the highest in the country?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No, they are the lowest. Andhra is a highly surplus State, in fact No. 1 surplus State and in the delta areas generally lowest prices exist. But in some parts of Andhra, in Telangana and Rayalaseema prices generally tend to be higher, and there we have started fair price shops.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that in Hyderabad State the price of rice and wheat has gone up tremendously causing great hardship to the poor people?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: In Hyderabad last week, the price of rice was Rs. 18/9/- per maund.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in the fair price shops only a part of the grains supplied to them is sold at the fair price and the rest goes into the black market?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Sir, we intend that the foodgrains at the fair

price will reach the needy and the poor people.

SHRI PYDAH VENKATA NARAYANA: May I know if it is a fact that in East and West Godavari districts, the best paddy producing centres, the price of paddy is very high.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Compared with the previous year, it is high, but compared with the rest of the country lowest prices obtain except in some pockets of Andhra.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any investigation has been made in other States also as to the cause of the rise in prices of foodgrains?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is a routine work for us. In our Ministry we have got the marketing intelligence and the economics and statistics directorate. The officers go round and check, make routine inspection every time.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Does not the high price benefit the agriculturists?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is what is now actually happening and at the time of the harvest the agriculturists are getting the benefit of the high prices. Formerly the prices used to be low at the time of the harvest and to go up after the harvest.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: The hon. Minister said that the price of rice in Hyderabad last week was Rs. 18/9/- per maund. Is he aware that the actual price is about Rs. 22 per maund?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is the superior variety of rice. I am talking of the common variety, the coarse rice eaten by the common man.

ALL-INDIA RAILWAY STATION MASTERS' ASSOCIATION

*19. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state: