

Purchase of damaged stock of Paddy in Punjab and Haryana

1951. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given instructions to the FCI to purchase damaged stocks of paddy in Punjab and Haryana this year;

(b) if so, how much quantity of damaged paddy was procured in these States so far and how much amount has been spent for this purpose; and

(c) whether Government give an assurance that these stocks would not be sold through PDS in Southern States or elsewhere in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, in order to reduce the hardship of farmers and enable the agencies to procure paddy which was affected due to unseasonal rains and blight disease at Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Government have extended relaxations in specifications of paddy to Punjab and Haryana, providing for procurement of paddy with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains up to a maximum limit of 8% as against 3% provided in the uniform (FAQ) specifications.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

A.P. Government's demand to increase purchasing of rice by FCI

1952. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has approached Government and demanded that quantity of rice to be purchased by Food Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh be increased;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has asked Government to instruct the F.C.I. to shift the Par Boiled Rice

lying in its Andhra Pradesh godowns to Kerala and West Bengal where this rice is consumed;

(c) whether Government are aware of the problem of Andhra Pradesh farmers because of floods in the State; and

(d) if so, whether farmers of the State will be helped as has been done in the case of farmers of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has directed the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to make immediate arrangements to evacuate maximum quantities of rice specially par boiled rice to other centres to vacat space for Andhra Pradesh rice.

(d) The system of procurement of rice by FCI for the Central Pool from Andhra Pradesh is different from that of Punjab. While in respect of Andhra Pradesh, rice is normally procured through the levy route from the millers, in respect of Punjab this is done mostly through custom milling of paddy procured by FCI State Agencies. No relaxation in specifications or out turn of levy rice has been extended to Punjab.

Distribution of foodgrains in drought affected states under PDS

†1953. SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to distribute 20 kg. of foodgrain to each affected under Public Distribution System in the drought affected States;

(b) if so, the names of the drought affected States where foodgrains have been made available; and

(c) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Additional allocation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi