

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of all the essential commodities including food-grains have shot up in Delhi after the introduction of rationing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices of the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b).

No, Sir. The prices of essential commodities have remained steady with the exception of coarse grains like gram, bajra and pulses like moong. The Prices of vegetable oils, pulses other than moong, vegetables, etc. were lower in January 1966 than in the first week of December 1965. The prices of rationed commodities like wheat and rice have remained constant since the introduction of statutory rationing. Delhi is not a producing area and its requirements are met from the neighbouring states. The rise in the prices of bajra, gram and moong is mainly due to seasonal factors and partly due to lack of adequate arrivals.

(c) The Government is taking steps to import coarse grains from the neighbouring states of Punjab and Rajasthan at Government level. A constant watch is also being kept on the prices of all essential commodities and necessary steps are being taken as and when necessary.

Vessels and Cargo lost in Cyclone in West Coast 4

*6. **Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalya:**
Shri Bade:
Shri Lahtan Chaudhry:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian sailing vessels carrying cargo which were lost in the Arabian Sea during the cyclone storm which hit the West Coast Ports from Cochin to Rannagiri in December, 1965;

(b) the extent of loss of cargo and lives;

(c) whether any kind of assistance has been given by Government to the next of kin of those who lost their lives; and

(d) if so, the particulars thereof?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Eighty-five Indian sailing vessels are reported to have been totally lost.

(b) According to present reports, the loss of property is estimated over Rs. 30 lakhs and about 60 lives are feared to have been lost. Enquiries are being held under Section 358 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

(c) and (d). The Central Government have rendered assistance to the stranded crew by way of providing food and clothing and arranging for their repatriation to their home ports. In addition, the State Governments concerned have also rendered assistance, both on their own and as a

result of a request from the Central Government, but the extent of their assistance is not known.

Procurement of Rice from Surplus States

- *7. **Shri Batmiki:**
Shri Bagri:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Kinshen Pattanayak:
Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for the procurement of rice from the surplus States;

(b) the quantity of rice proposed to be procured for the deficit States; and

(c) the broad details of the procurement policy of Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). There is no scheme of direct procurement by Central Government. The State Governments of the surplus States will procure rice and make it available to Government for supply to the deficit States. It has not been possible to fix firm targets of procurement as yet. Efforts are, however, being made to maximise procurement on Government account.

(c) The broad details of the procurement policy are as follows:

1. Procurement is being undertaken not only in surplus

States but also in deficit States to enable control of Government over as large a part of the marketable surplus as possible.

2. Previously, procurement was confined to foodgrains like paddy, rice and wheat. The scope of procurement has now been broadened to include coarse cereals like jawar, bajra, maize and gram.

3. The sources from which procurement used to be made have been broad-based to include the producers in addition to the millers and the registered dealers.

Intensive Agricultural Programmes

- *8. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent detailed study made by his Ministry has revealed that the intensive agricultural programmes are likely to be hampered by the shortage of fertilisers and pesticides; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make enough of fertilisers and pesticides available for carrying the programmes through?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) and (b). No such study has been made by the Department of Agricul-