

Basmati Rice procured by S.T.C. for Export

6016. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Basmati rice procured by the State Trading Corporation for export during last three years;

(b) whether Government are making adequate publicity for the sale of procured Basmati rice; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) The following quantities of Basmati Rice were supplied to or procured by STC for export during the last three years:—

1972-73	14,879 M.T.
1973-74	26,127 M.T.
1974-75	68,000 M.T.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Contacts have been established with the leading rice importers in the West Asia some of whom have launched a publicity drive through the media of television, cinema and newspapers for popularising the Indian Basmati Rice.

Small Savings in Post Offices

6017. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the particular steps taken to boost small savings in the post offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The steps taken recently to promote Small Savings collections include the following:—

(i) The rates of interest on Small Savings instruments were stepped up from the

1st April, 1974 and again from the 23rd July, 1974 in line with the increased rates of interest on deposits in Commercial banks.

(ii) In order that State Governments and Union Territories make concerted effort to improve collections, targets for achievement in the first three years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan have been drawn up and intimated to them; these include detailed targets for Authorised Agents under the Standardised Agency System, Pay Roll Savings Groups, Mahila Pradhana Kshetriya Bachat Yojana and Sanchayakas.

(iii) With a view to encouraging retention of larger balances in P.O.S.B. a Prize Incentive Scheme was introduced in December, 1973 and two draws for prizes were held—the first on the 31st July, 1974 and the second on the 31st January, 1975.

(iv) It has been decided to open National Savings Bureaux in the four metropolitan cities—viz., Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay; these will be run by the P & T Department to transact exclusively Savings Bank work. To begin with, one National Savings Bureau will be opened in each of the four cities.

(v) With a view to encouraging personal collections, it has been decided that with effect from 1-4-1975, where such collections exceed the targets fixed, the State Governments concerned will be entitled to loan assistance equivalent to 25 per cent of the amount of individual savings collected in excess of targets fixed in addition to the normal loan assistance provided to them out of net collections.