

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA):** (a) A large number of purchase centres have been opened by the public agencies in different States for undertaking purchases of wheat, barley and grams at the support prices fixed by the Government.

(b) As on 18-6-77, a total quantity of 45.89 lakh tonnes of wheat has been purchased by the public agencies during 1977-78 Rabi marketing season. Besides, the Food Corporation of India have purchased 9961 tonnes of barley and 19854 tonnes of gram in the open market as commercial purchases.

(c) Constant vigil and supervision is being done by the officers of the State Governments, F.C.I. and other procuring agencies in the mandis/purchase centres to eliminate the malpractices. Besides, the Mandi Samitis and field level co-ordination Committees are also watching the interest of the farmers and helping in the elimination of malpractices.

**Establishment of Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Kerala**

1105. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN  
KADANNAPPALLI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of establishing a Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Kerala has been pending with the Government since 1974; and

(b) if so, the reason for delay in giving approval for this proposal?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The establishment of the Vidyapeeth in Kerala was part of a comprehensive scheme for the establishment of Vidyapeethas which took time for consideration. Recently it has been decided to take up the case of Vidyapeetha in Kerala separately and the matter is being discussed with State Government.

**Demand to release stocks of foodgrains to bring down prices**

1106. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers Association has demanded that the Government should release all surplus stocks of foodgrains in the open market to bring down prices; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA):** (a) A copy of the Press Communique issued by the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers' Association on 21st May, 1977 has been received. Among other things, the Federation has suggested disposal of surplus stocks of pulses, gram and maize etc. by the Governmental agencies in the open market with a view to bring down their prices.

(b) Governmental agencies, making purchases on behalf of the Government of India have purchased only limited quantities of pulses and gram for meeting the requirements of the Defence Services, and there is no surplus for any sale in the open market. Regarding maize, whatever quantities are available, are meant for issue through the public distribution system and these cannot be released for sale in the open market.