

(a) the States that have been supplying subsidised foodgrains to weaker sections;

(b) the subsidy involved in each case and what is the financial implication of this subsidy; and

(c) whether Government have provided foodgrains allocation from its pool for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool are made to various States Union Territories at subsidised prices to enable them to implement the public distribution system which aims primarily at supplying foodgrains to the consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections of the population, at reasonable prices. A statement indicating supplies of foodgrains from the Central Pool for the public distribution system in various States/Union Territories for the year 1984 is attached. The consumer subsidy involved per quintal on issue of rice and wheat from the Central Pool (without incidence of storage and transit losses) is estimated at Rs. 60.07 and Rs. 53.51, respectively, for 1984-85.

Statement

Supplies of rice and wheat from Central Pool for public distribution system in respect of various States/UTs during the year 1984

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

States/UTs	SUPPLIES	
	Rice	Wheat
Andhra Pradesh	984.0	93.6
Assam	220.8	141.3
Bihar	83.7	270.9
Gujarat	91.8	17.8
Haryana	9.1	54.6
Himachal Pradesh	31.4	23.3
Jammu & Kashmir	122.8	88.6
Karnataka	231.8	77.6
Kerala	1322.6	146.1
Madhya Pradesh	150.8	44.9

Maharashtra	272.6	330.5
Manipur	26.8	11.5
Meghalaya	80.6	14.5
Nagaland	48.0	9.3
Orissa	38.2	144.2
Punjab	1.7	12.9
Rajasthan	4.5	15.2
Sikkim	36.4	3.3
Tamil Nadu	271.5	91.5
Tripura	85.3	6.1
Uttar Pradesh	237.1	103.6
West Bengal	962.2	802.3
A&N Islands	4.0	4.9
Arunachal Pradesh	35.8	3.9
Chandigarh	2.9	2.8
A&N Haveli	0.9	Neg
Delhi	153.7	358.4
Goa, Daman & Diu	33.6	14.9
Pondicherry	5.3	1.1
Mizoram	58.7	6.1
Lakshadweep	4.0	Neg.

Total All States/UIs 5612.6 2903.7

Neg = Below 50 tonnes.

Legislation to make Workers' Right to Literacy A Basic Labour Right

391. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the governing body of the Central Workers Education Board has suggested to Government to enact a legislation to make workers' right to literacy a basic labour right :

(b) if so, what steps Government are considering to take in this regard; and

(c) what other measures are being taken to provide educational facility to the workers to remove illiteracy among them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a part of the National Adult Education Programme, the Central Board for workers Education has been conducting functional adult literacy classes in the organised sector since 2nd October, 1978 through 43 Regional Centres spread all over the country. The duration of these classes is 6 months. The main thrust is in the plantation and mining areas where rate of illiteracy is very high.

Import of Chemical-Coated Seeds to India

392. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

SHRI Y S. MAHAJAN :

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH

MALIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 6 February, 1985 regarding "Chemical-coated wheat seeds sent to India" ;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from whom such seeds were purchased ;

(c) whether these seeds were tested ; if so, what is the result and whether these seeds were distributed to the farmers for growing ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) what are the effects of these seeds and what action has been taken by Government against the suppliers ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The seeds were received (not purchased) for experimental purposes from the International Centre for Maize & Wheat Research in Mexico and the International Centre for Research in Dry Land Agriculture, Aleppo, Syria.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The seeds were tested by the experts in the Plant Quarantine Division of the National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources of the ICAR located in the Campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, first under laboratory conditions and subsequently under post quarantine nursery in the field conditions under strict vigilance. Only a few plants were found to carry either the Loose Smut disease or the flag Smut. These were destroyed along with four adjacent healthy rows on either side of the infected plants. The remainder of the experimental seed material was harvested and made available to the concerned scientists through the ICAR Project Directorate of Wheat.

(e) The seeds harvested from the experimental nurseries were healthy and were meant for strengthening the genetic variability in the wheat breeding programme. The procedure followed is part of the collaborative programmes with the above named international research centres for developing better and high yielding wheat varieties. The question of taking any action against the suppliers of the experimental seed material does not therefore arise.

Panels on Wage Policy

393. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formed the panels on wage policy ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made so far by the panels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Attack on Rameshwaram Fishermen by Lankan Navy

394. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :