

(b) Details of commoditywise subsidy claimed by Food Corporation of

India during the last years are as follows:—

(RS. crores)

Commodity	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77 (RE)
Wheat Imported	252.11	189.72	145.16*
Wheat Indigenous	2.94	21.23	}
Rice Imported	0.22	10.37	
Rice Indigenous (—)	8.72 (—)	11.77	0.51
Milo Imported	25.23	11.32	17.41
Coarsegrains	0.16	0.20	0.48
Handling gifts	0.54	0.11	..
	272.48	221.18	175.24
Carrying cost of buffer	76.54	273.47
Total	272.48	297.72	448.71

(—) Indicates gain.

*separate information not available.

The Food Corporation of India has so far been paid the following amounts towards subsidy:—

Year	(Amount in Crores Rs.)
1974-75	295
1975-76	250
1976-77	506

The excess payments made during these years are on account of arrear subsidy paid to the Food Corporation of India in respect of earlier years.

(c) The difference between the economic cost of food-grains of the Food Corporation of India and the Central issue prices fixed by the Government of India is reimbursed to the Corporation as subsidy on foodgrains transactions. In addition, subsidy is also paid for the cost of holding the buffer stocks of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India.

Pandiar-Punnampuzha River Scheme

4627. SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Pandiar-Punnampuzha river scheme for utilising the waters for agriculture and irrigation development in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the investment proposed; the investment made so far and the time-schedule for the entire project;

(c) whether Government are aware of the urgency of completion of the project for conservation of the waters for profitable utilisation in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to expedite the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d). The Pandiar-Punnampuzha River Scheme is purely a hydro-electric scheme. The detailed project report

of this Scheme estimated to cost Rs. 73.90 crores and to generate 100 MW of power has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu in February, 1977 and is under examination in Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission. An amount of about Rs. 2.21 crores has been spent on the scheme upto March, 1977. For 1977-78, an amount of Rs. 5 crores has been provided for the Scheme in the State's Annual Plan, subject to the Scheme being approved by the Planning Commission.

No project report envisaging irrigation aspects has so far been received in the Central Water Commission from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Average cost per Acre for Wheat, Paddy, Sugarcane, Etc.

4628. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the official average cost per acre incurred by farmers on use of seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and la-

bour for wheat, paddy and sugarcane crops separately during the year 1976;

(b) the official procurement rates of these crops during the period and at present;

(c) the Government's policy to assure the farmers in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce the agricultural cost?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Estimates of average expenditure per hectare incurred by farmers on the use of seed, fertilisers, irrigation and labour for 1975-76 have become available for wheat in Haryana and Punjab, paddy in Andhra Pradesh and sugarcane in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops being implemented through the Agricultural Universities etc. A statement giving the data is attached (Statement).

(b) Procurement rates for wheat and paddy for 1976 and 1977 are as follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

Crop	Crop year (July-June)	Marketing year (April-March for wheat) (Nov-Oct. for paddy)	Procurement price
Wheat	1975-76	1976-77	105
	1976-77	1977-78	110
Paddy (C arse)	1975-76	1975-76	74
	1976-77	1976-77	74

In the case of sugarcane, there is no direct procurement by Government but statutory minimum prices payable by sugar factories are fixed. The minimum price fixed for 1975-76 and 1976-77 seasons was Rs. 8.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent or below with a premium of 10 paise for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery over 8.5 per cent. However, in many areas the actual prices paid by the sugar factories to

the growers for the cane delivered to the factories were much higher.

(c) It is the Government's policy to ensure that the prices received by the farmers are not below the official procurement minimum prices. Wide publicity is given through official media and the press to the prices announced by the Government every year. In the case of wheat and paddy, wide publicity is also given to