

which came forward to extend co-operation for the flood victims of Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan; and

(b) whether some financial or medical assistance has been provided by some foreign countries also, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

New Trade and Distribution policy for Kharif Grains

114. DR. HENRY AUSTIN:

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:

SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN:

SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:

SHRI S. S. GUPTA:

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:

SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD
VERMA:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDA-
RAM:

SHRI RAJ KESHAR SINGH:

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently announced the new trade and distribution policy for kharif grains;

(b) if so, whether some of the States have not approved of this policy;

(c) whether the Centre-W. Bengal dialogue on grains policy has failed and if so, what are the points of dispute between West Bengal and Centre;

(d) which are the other States who have not approved this policy; and

(e) whether the free movement of rice have increased the price of rice in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Government have recently announced the price and procurement policy for kharif cereals for 1977-78 season.

(b) to (d). Governments of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Assam have had some reservations about the removal of Zonal restrictions on movement of paddy/rice but it has been explained to them that this has been done in larger national interest.

(e) The rice prices have shown a fall in most parts of the country. However, the prices have shown some rise in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and a mixed trend in Tamil Nadu.

Rise in Prices of Pulses, Wheat and Rice

115. DR. HENRY AUSTIN:

SHRI RAJ KESHAR SINGH:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:

SHRI C. K. JAFFER
SHERIEF:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of pulses, wheat and rice have gone up during the last six months;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some States shortage of pulses has been felt;

(d) reasons for the shortage; and

(e) what steps have been taken to reduce the prices and also the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) A statement showing index number of wholesale prices of rice, wheat and pulses from the last week of March, 1977 to 22nd November, 1977 is attached. It may be observed from this statement that the price index for rice has been showing a rise from the end of March, 1977 to the first week of September, 1977; thereafter the price index for rice has shown a fall from 173.8 to 169.0 on 22nd October, 1977, i.e., a fall of 2.8 per cent.

Prices of wheat recorded a fall during the peak marketing months of April and May 1977 but showed a

slight rise during June-August 1977. Since then, they have ruled more or less steady. The price index for wheat, which stood at 153.1 during the week ended 22nd October 1977, was lower by 3.9 per cent compared to the index of 159.3 at the end of March 1977.

Prices of pulses have generally been showing a rising trend. The price index rose from 171.0 at the end of March 1977 to 229.9 in the first week of October 1977 but started falling thereafter and it was 220.3 in the week ending 22nd October 1977. Between 1st and 22nd October, 1977 the price index for pulses has registered a fall of 4.2 per cent.

(b) The increase in prices of pulses and rice has been mainly due to lower production thereof during 1976-77 as compared to 1975-76 as also in sympathy with the general rising trend of prices.

(c) There is overall shortage of pulses in the country.

(d) Shortfall in production.

(e) In addition to certain short term regulatory measures adopted, the main emphasis is being laid on long term measures to increase production of pulses—including announcement of incentive in support price for gram at a higher level.

Statement

Index Nos. of Wholesale prices of Rice, Wheat and Pulses

(Base : 1970-71=100)

Month/Week		Rice	Wheat	Pulses
March	26-3-77	156.8	159.3	171.0
April	2-4-77	158.2	155.0	165.8
	9-4-77	159.8	155.1	165.6
	16-4-77	161.0	153.0	167.4

Month	Week	Rice	Wheat	Pulses
	23-4-77	161·2	148·7	166·6
	30-4-77	161·8	146·2	172·6
May	7-5-77	162·8	146·6	177·9
	14-5-77	163·7	148·1	189·6
	21-5-77	164·7	149·8	191·2
	28-5-77	162·9	149·3	189·1
June	4-6-77	164·2	149·7	188·3
	11-6-77	165·2	149·2	187·5
	18-6-77	165·6	150·0	189·7
	25-6-77	169·5	150·6	180·5
July	2-7-77	171·0	150·7	189·9
	9-7-77	173·2	151·4	200·2
	16-7-77	172·1	153·1	200·6
	23-7-77	172·4	153·2	198·2
	30-7-77	173·4	152·6	195·3
August	6-8-77	173·6	152·6	196·5
	13-8-77	173·8	153·1	198·1
	20-8-77	173·4	152·2	199·5
	27-8-77	173·6	151·7	202·4
September	3-9-77	173·8	152·3	204·5
	10-9-77	173·8	151·9	211·9
	17-9-77	173·0	153·5	220·6
	24-9-77	170·6	154·4	229·3
October	1-10-77	169·1	153·4	229·9
	8-10-77	169·3	153·4	220·0
	15-10-77	168·9	153·4	217·8
	22-10-77	169·0	153·1	220·3