

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :**

(a) to (c) : Government of India have recently announced the price and procurement policy for the Kharif season 1974-75. Under this policy, the procurement price of coarse variety paddy in different States has been fixed at Rs. 74/- per quintal and the prices of other varieties of paddy have been fixed keeping in view the existing varietal differences in their prices. The procurement price of Jowar, Maize, Bajra and Ragi has also been fixed at Rs. 74/- per quintal. The issue prices of rice and coarse grains will be adjusted keeping in view the provision in the procurement prices. The existing paddy/rice zones will continue. The present policy of free movement of coarse grains would also continue and there would be levy on producers. The prevailing procurement system in each State would be strengthened to maximum procurement of kharif cereals. The incentive bonus scheme in respect of quantities of rice offered to the central pool will be continued.

No change in the existing policy relating to rabi foodgrains is contemplated at present.

**Control on Price of Sugar by Buying
Entire Production**

1976. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether free market sugar is being sold at Rs. 6.50 kg ; and

(b) if so, whether sharp increase in the price of sugar could be controlled by buying the entire production of sugar from the factories ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND**

**IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ
KHAN) :**

(a) No, Sir. During the week ending 21st November, 1974, the retail prices of sugar in important centres have been ranging from Rs. 4.25 to Rs. 5.60 per kilogram.

(b) Does not arise. In any case there is no proposal under consideration to introduce full control.

Damage to Kharif Crop in Maharashtra

1977. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether heavy rain in October this year has caused extensive damage to Kharif crops in the coastal region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the extent of the damage; and

(c) relief proposed to be given to the agriculturists ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS
PATEL) :**

(a) : The State Government have reported that rain-fall in coastal area of Maharashtra was more than average. The rains have not caused extensive damage to kharif crops.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

**Production of Cotton and Cotton seeds
in Punjab**

1978. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of cotton seed distributed to cotton growing farmers in Punjab State ;

(b) the different varieties of cotton grown in Punjab State ; and