

polygamy among the muslims. But it appears from a press report published in the Free Press Journal, Bombay on 19-4-1966 that a demonstration sponsored by the Secular Forum, Bombay was staged by seven muslim women demanding a ban on polygamy among muslims and end of discrimination in civil laws applicable to different communities in a Secular State like India. The demonstrators were allowed to go in a deputation to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for presenting a memo to him.

A telegram urging the abolition of polygamy among muslims was addressed by one muslim individual from West Bengal in May 1966, to the Prime Minister.

(b) Before the Government takes up any proposal to enact a law, it is considered necessary to ascertain the views of the State Governments in the matter.

In August 1966 a letter was addressed to the State Governments seeking their views regarding the enactment of a uniform civil code for all the citizens of India especially in relation to marriage, divorce and succession. From the replies received so far it appears that the State Governments of Mysore, Assam and the Union Territories Administrations of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mampur and Himachal Pradesh, are in favour of enactment of a uniform civil code while the State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Kerala and Rajasthan are not in favour of it. The Government of Maharashtra, while agreeing have suggested the appointment of a Commission consisting of Ulemas, Lawyers and Judges. The Government of Orissa, although in favour, are of the opinion that it will have to be effected slowly and carefully. On the other hand, a large number of representations were received from muslim organisations and individuals vehemently opposing any change in their personal law.

In the circumstances, any proposal for banning or restricting polygamy should emanate from the sections of the people concerned.

(c) The complete data are not available. It is, however, understood that Turkey and Tunisia have imposed restrictions on polygamy. In Pakistan also certain restrictions were imposed on polygamous marriages in 1961.

**Purchase of Wheat or Rice from Private Foreign Parties**

\*1378. **Shri R. Barua:**  
**Shri D. N. Patodia:**  
**Shri S. S. Basal:**  
**Shri Eswara Reddy**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recently made any efforts to import wheat or rice from private parties in some foreign countries and obtained their quotations for the deal.

(b) if so how their rates compare with the international market, and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by Government to purchase foodgrains from the private foreign parties?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) This has been done in respect only of rice.

(b) Of the prices for rice quoted by various private parties, some are higher than the international market prices quoted in Trade Journals while others are lower.

(c) Government have been making purchases from any private party whose offer is competitive.