

lays emphasis upon improving retention and suggests measures in this regard. Some of the main measures being taken are:-

- i) Provision of Central Assistance under the scheme of Operation Blackboard for improvement of physical facilities in Primary schools;
- ii) provision of Central Assistance for establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;
- iii) provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals;
- iv) recruitment of women teachers in larger numbers to improve retention of girls;
- v) laying down of Minimum Levels of Learning for the primary stage and setting up a procedure for improving the teaching-learning process and making it more activity based and child centred.

[English]

Export of Sugar

1085. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of sugar has increased in the International market; and

(b) if so, the quantity of sugar permitted to be exported by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOL): (a) The price of sugar in the international market keeps on fluctuating.

(b) The quantity of sugar allocated for export during the last 3 sugar years (October to September) is given below:-

(Lakh tonnes)	
Year	Quantity permitted
1888-89	0.33
1989-90	0.51
1990-91	5.61

Procurement Price of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

1086. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times procurement price of wheat, rice and sugar has been increased during the last two years;

(b) the factors leading to such increase each time;

(c) whether procurement of wheat, rice and sugar in the last season had been satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOL): (a) Twice, Sir.

(b) The minimum support price of wheat and paddy is fixed on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account cost of cultivation, inputs and reasonable return to farmers etc. The procurement prices of levy rice are determined each year on the basis of M.S.P. of paddy, statutory taxes payable by millers/dealers, etc.

Ex-factory prices of levy sugar are fixed for each sugar year as per formula recommended by expert bodies like B.I.C.P.