

advised the University to ensure proper functioning of its Health Centre during the AICC session in December, 1975. As at that time, the stock of medicines was inadequate, the University Office anticipated an additional requirement of Rs. 20,000 for purchase of medicines. This requirement was shown in the budget document for 1976-77. Eventually, the personnel and medicine for the Centre during the AICC Session were provided by the Punjab Government. The Centre incurred an expenditure of less than Rs. 100 on medicines, which was later reimbursed by the Government of Punjab. In the Budget papers for 1976-77 it was indicated by a footnote that the revised provision included Rs. 20,000 to meet the cost of medicines on AICC session.

(c) and (d). According to Section 10(2) of the Punjab University Act, the term of office of the Vice-Chancellor may be extended by the Chancellor for such further periods, not exceeding three years at a time, as he may deem fit. In exercise of these powers, the term of Prof. R. C. Paul, as Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University, which was due to expire on June 30, 1977, was extended by the Chancellor for a period of three years, *vide* notification dated 24th March, 1977.

Phoorel Pesticide

1889. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that use of Phoorel (the trade name for leptophos which belongs to a class of poisons called organophosphates), an American made pesticide, is banned in the United States and it is no longer welcome in Egypt;

(b) whether he is also aware that this pesticide that caused paralysis among hundreds of water buffaloes in Egypt is currently being manufactured in Texas, US and offered for sale in India; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It has been reported that manufacturing firm in the USA have voluntarily suspended its production. In any case the Registration Committee under the Insecticide Act has decided not to register this chemical. Government have also initiated action to ban its use in India.

Procurement Price of Agricultural Produce

1890. SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government in regard to the minimum and maximum price of procurement of agricultural produce especially rice;

(b) whether Government is aware of the hardships of agriculturists caused by the offer of a very low price for procurement;

(c) the ranges of prices offered during the last twelve months; and

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the price so as to ensure economic viability of agricultural operations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). The procurement prices are fixed in respect of paddy, rice, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and wheat. These prices are fixed after taking into account the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission, the views of the Chief Ministers of States and the need to protect the interests of the producers as well as the consumers. A statement giving procurement prices for Kharif cereals for the marketing seasons 1975-76 and 1976-77 and for wheat for the marketing seasons 1976-77 and 1977-78 is attached.

(d) The pricing policy for Rabi cereals has already been announced on the 12th April, 1977. The pricing policy for Kharif cereals for 1977-78 will be formulated during September-October 1977 on the eve of the forthcoming Kharif marketing season.

Statement

Price range of procurement/support prices of different foodgrains fixed by the Government of India for Kharif/Rabi foodgrains for 1975-76 and 1976-77 Kharif and 1976-77 and 1977-78 Rabi seasons

	(Rs. per quintal)	
A. Kharif foodgrains	1975-76	1976-77
Paddy	74 to 96	74 to 96
Rice	117 to 154	117 to 154
Jowar, Bajra, Maize and Ragi	74	74
B. Rabi foodgrains	1976-77	1977-78
Wheat	105	110

Train in Delhi Zoo

1891. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the running of toy train in Delhi Zoo has harmful effect and many of the rare species of birds have already migrated from the Zoo if so, the facts thereof;

(b) whether Government had not consulted any experts about the effects of train running in the zoo; and

(c) whether Government propose to stop the running of trains in the zoo?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The train that was introduced in the Delhi Zoological Park in August, 1976 was not a toy train but comprised almost normal

sized carriages pulled by a diesel shunting engine used on the Kalka-Simla rail. The running of such a train close to the enclosures did affect the alighting of migratory birds within the Delhi Zoo last winter and many of the animals like the lion-tailed monkey, the spider monkey, the puma, the elephant and the white tigers appeared to be disturbed. There was apprehension that such disturbance might ultimately affect breeding within the Zoo. Migratory birds from East European countries and Siberia have been regularly visiting the pond of the Delhi Zoological Park since 1961. With the introduction of the train within the Zoo, as against nearly 3,000 migratory birds which arrive by the middle of October only about 25 alighted last October. After the train was stopped early last January about 1,000 birds flocked into the Zoo.

(b) and (c). While available records do not indicate prior consultation of acknowledged wildlife conservation experts about the effects of running of the train in the Zoo, on the basis of subsequent advice received from such experts, the running of the zoo train was stopped from January, 1977.

Permission for Fishing on Kerala Coasts

1892. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) number of companies to whom Government have given permission to use Kerala coast for fishing during last three years and their names;

(b) whether the Central Government have taken note of the State Government's proposal to improve fishing industry in Kerala;

(c) whether Government have given permission to the multinational corporations to participate in the fishing industry in India; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?