

that there has been a rise. Anyway, I also share the sentiments and the concern expressed by the hon. Members; and my Ministry will take every step to alert the State Government to ensure remunerative prices to the coconut growers all over the country.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Coconut cultivation in Kerala is a facing serious threat from rootwilt and other diseases. Has the Government got any project to find a solution to this problem?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Of course, rootwilt is a debilitating disease affecting coconut cultivation in the State of Kerala; and of course so many steps are being taken by the Ministry to eradicate this disease. Certain recommendations have been made by the Department. They are as follows:

1. Removal of all affected seedlings in the pre-bearing age, along with palms in the advanced stage of disease;
2. Replanting with seedlings of high yielding genotypes;
3. Application of balanced dose of fertilizers and use of green manure in the basin;
4. Irrigating the palms during summer and avoiding water-logging by providing proper drainage;
5. Raising inter-crops in a rotation or a mixed farming with recycling of organic matter.

For the removal of debilitating disease affecting trees, we are giving Rs. 75 per tree; and the amount has been enhanced to Rs. 100 per tree.

SHRI KODIKUNIL SURESH: In Kerala lots of coconut trees are affected by different types of diseases and they are unused. In this situation, the coconut farmers are

facing lot of problems and lose their money. Is it a fact whether the Government of India is considering giving financial assistance to coconut farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Just one minute before he had replied to that question.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): We are providing Rs. 3000 per hectare; that is in stages Rs. 1000 each year for replanting.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject matter under discussion is cultivation of coconut in Kerala. Is the Government formulating any scheme mainly for Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for coconut cultivation there? It may be possible that there is resistance in the soil of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to the disease which affects the cultivation of coconut in Kerala. Therefore, why is the Government not doing anything for the development of coconut cultivation there?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: For it, you have to pray for change in climate.

Post-Matric Scholarship to SC/ST Students

*229. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when the rates of post-matric scholarship for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were revised by the Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) the price-index at the time of implementing the revised rates alongwith the present price-index;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the rates of scholarship in the beginning of every academic year on the basis of existing price-index; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI K. KAMALA KUMARI): (a) The rates were last revised in October, 1989 and made applicable from 1-7-1989.

(b) The Index Number of whole sale prices (All commodities) during 1989-90 were 165.7 (Base year 1981-82 =100). The present Price Index during December, 1991 is 211.3 (Base year 1981-82 =100).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you go through the original answer, you will find that the Government implements a programme first and then takes decision. It reads "the rates were last revised in October, 1989 and made application from 1.7.89". It means the decision was taken in October and it was implemented from July. Besides this, the hon. Minister has refused to accept the price-index as the basis. The amount of the scholarship granted to the students is not sufficient and they face hardships. After all, what is the difficulty in accepting the price-index as the basis for revising rates? What is the basis of revision of rates of scholarship?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Sir, it is true that the rate of scholarship has neither been revised nor is revised on the basis of price-index. An officer committee was constituted in 1987. The Committee recommended that the scholarships of Rs. 400 and Rs. 150 should be granted to boarding scholars and day scholars respectively. Accordingly our department had sent the proposal to the Planning Commission and to the Ministry of Finance but they have made provision for only Rs. 280 and Rs. 125 respectively. It is true that its basis should be the present price-index whether it should be the basis

for other people or not but it must be the basis for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is right that the amount of scholarship for them should be increased. Keeping it in view we had sent the proposals of Rs. 400/- and Rs. 150 to the Planning Commission.....(*Interruptions*) so far as the price-index is concerned, it is true that it has not been accepted as the basis but the department admits it that their scholarship should be increased and I say that.....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Planning Commission be agreeable to it or not?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Please listen to me and then speak, whatever you think is right and just....(*Interruptions*)....In such a situation it is difficult to reply. I say that it has been sent to the Planning Commission. Now there is the issue of economic crisis but I don't want this economic crisis to hit the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is what I want to submit.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has prescribed a limit of income for giving scholarship. Is the hon. Minister aware that the employees of class III and class IV are covered by that limit with the result their children are deprived of scholarship? Will the Government increase this limit? If so, by when this limit will be increased?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Sir, the hon. Member has given a constructive suggestion and I shall look into it. Since it is in their interest and the hon. Member is asking a right question, I shall look into it.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahato.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: I like to know from the hon. Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not only raise the questions regarding backwards classes but allow the Members sitting on the back benches also to ask questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is a shifting bench. Please repeat your question.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: I would like to know from the Minister through you, Sir, the rate of hostel charges for the pre-matric and post-matric students.

SHRI SITARAM KESARI: So far as the post-matric students are concerned, I can assure you that I will consider increasing the amount of scholarship.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme of scholarship was started in 1943 for the Scheduled Castes and in 1947 for the Scheduled Tribes and its first revision was done in 1980 and the third in 1989. There are five categories in it. The lowest one is of I.A. or 10+2+2. The scholarship for this category ranges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 65 and you can understand it well what can be done in Rs. 50 in these days of skaf-rocketing prices. The hon. Minister has assured the House to increase the scholarship amount. I think that the hon. Minister has not gone through the Budget of his own Ministry of Welfare. If you go through the Budget of the Ministry of Welfare.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Paswan, not in this way, please.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have got this Budget document. I am asking whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Welfare has reduced the allocation for hostels and scholarship and on page no. 200....

MR. SPEAKER: Not in this way.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Is it true that the allocation of Rs. 8 crore for the hostels has been reduced to Rs. 5 crore and the allocation of Rs. 4 crore for Scheduled Tribes has been reduced to Rs. 2.5 crore? Is it true or not? And if it is true, how would he manage to increase the amount of scholarship?

MR. SPEAKER: When allocation has been reduced, how can the scholarships be given?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Sir, we have sent our proposal to the Planning Commission about which the hon. Member has raised some points. *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. When I have said that I will think over increasing the amount, and try to increase it, this question is irrelevant. The relevant question is that I shall try to do it because I have assured the House...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You had assured the House to clear the backlog by 31 March. What is the significance of your assurance?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: I am saying that by 31st March. *(Interruptions)* I am repeating it that if it is not done by 31st March as I have said in House.... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. I will take steps in the direction without fail. So don't mention it. Mr. Ram Vilas, I would like to point out one thing more that it is not a political issue for me, rather it is my commitment and I will fulfil it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The hon. Minister has said so reply to my question in your presence.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: I assure you... *(Interruptions)*.... Please listen. I shall try my best to increase the scholarship amount and I hope that I will succeed in it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The amount has been reduced in the Budget allocation and the hon. Minister is talking of increasing the scholarship. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi, you say it again and again. It is not proper.

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to have a centrally sponsored hostel accommodation scheme for SC/ST students in higher education,

specially in cities like Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, with a provision for coaching facilities for administrative/bank and other Central Government service examinations and also with post-matric scholarship.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Sir, I need a fresh notice for this.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue is very important. I would also....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying it again and again that only 60 minutes are allowed for Question Hour and there are 542 members in the House. Those Members who asked a question yesterday may not ask a question today and those who have asked today, may not ask tomorrow. All members can't be accommodated. It is useless to speak in this way..(*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKADAS: I am also one of the 542 members....(*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I am saying that the Members sitting in the front row should give a chance to the Members sitting on the back benches to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 231. Kumari Uma Bharti.

Organic Manures and Fertilizers

* 231. KUMARI UMA BHARTI:
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had conducted any cost-benefit study to establish the supremacy of organic manures over the chemical fertilizers and also their impact on environment;

(b) If so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. Organic Manures are of low nutrient content but they do improve the Physico-chemical and Microbiological condition of the soil because of their rich humus content. Hence, their role is not competitive but complementary to that of chemical fertilizer.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I expected, for my convenience, that the Hindi knowing hon. Minister of Agriculture would reply my question in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: Use the ear phone, you can hear its Hindi interpretation.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Part (a) of my first supplementary is about how much total fertilizer do we need for our cultivable land. Part (b) is about how much out of that is produced indigenously and how much is imported and part (c) is about countries from which we are making these imports?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker Sir, the question put by the hon. Member is about organic measure and I can give the figures, which are available with me. She also wants to know as to how much is imported and how much is produced indigenously. She has asked about fertilisers: in this connection I would like to tell her that we also produce manure. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker Sir, since he replied my question in a round-about way, I asked another question. It appeared to me that these people became very restless by my first question. So I