

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 14th March, 1984.

(c) and (d). Central Government has not inquired into the reasons for not availing the facility by any State Government/Union Territory.

Revision of Minimum Wages of Agricultural Labour

3965. **SHRI D.B. PATIL :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 166 on 25 March, 1985 regarding revision of minimum wages of agricultural labour and state :

(a) whether the minimum wages fixed by Government of Maharashtra for agricultural labourers are lowest in the country;

(b) whether Central Government have advised the Government of Maharashtra to revise the minimum wages to the national average of minimum wages of agricultural labourers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra revised the minimum rates of wages in the employment in agriculture vide their Notification of the 31st January, 1983. The minimum rates of wages are Rs. 6, Rs. 7 Rs. 8 and Rs. 10 for the four zones. It would not be correct to say that the minimum rates of wages fixed by the State Government are the lowest in the country as some of the other State Government have fixed minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers, which are lower than Rs. 10/- and in some cases even lower than Rs. 8/-.

(b) It is difficult to work out a national average of minimum wages for agricultural workers. Wages in agriculture are being fixed by various State Governments/Union Territories Administrations under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 taking into account a number of factors. However, the Central Government has been emphasising on all the State Governments including the State Government

of Maharashtra to follow the recommendations of the 31st Session of the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980, to review and revise, if necessary, minimum wages at least once in 2 years or on a rise of 50 points in the Consumer Price Index Number whichever is earlier.

(c) Does not arise.

News-Item Captioned "Calicut Mills Reject 'Toxic' FCI Wheat"

3966. **SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL Supplies be pleased to refer to the news item "Calicut Mills Reject 'Toxic' FCI Wheat" appearing in Indian Express dated 6 April, 1985 and state :

(a) whether Government have enquired into the allegations that wheat supplied by the Calicut FCI depot was toxic and/or unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the findings; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The allegations were not found to be correct. The wheat stocks were found to be well within the prescribed specifications, and also free from any toxicity.

(d) The prescribed steps to ensure the quality of wheat issued to the mill will continue to be taken, and the request of the millers for issue of both white and red wheat would be considered to the extent feasible.

Unemployment among Rural Population

3967. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of rural employed to the total rural population for the year 1982-83;

(b) the number and percentage of rural

under-employed to the total rural population for the year 1982-83;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to provide production oriented employment to the rural under-employed and un-employed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b). Information on such aspects has been collected by the National Sample Survey Organisation in their 38th Survey Round conducted in 1983. The results of that Survey are under tabulation.

(c) and (d). The main programmes in operation aimed at employment generation for the rural under-employed and unemployed are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and the Scheme for Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM). Their objectives are as under :

(i) IRDP—This programme has the objective of providing assistance in the form of productive assets to the families below the poverty line, so as to bring them above the poverty line.

(ii) NREP—This programme aims at providing supplementary employment opportunities to the work-seekers, particularly during the lean agricultural seasons.

(iii) RLEGP—This programme aims at improving and expanding employment opportunities for the rural landless with a view to providing guarantee of employment to atleast one member of every rural household upto hundred days in a year.

(iv) TRYSEM—Under this scheme, suitable skills are imparted to the rural youth to take up self employment.

Information about the targets and achievements under these programmes is shown below :

(Figures in lakhs)

Programme	Unit	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
		Target	Achievements.	Target	Achievements.	Target	Achievements.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
IRDP	Families	30.07	34.55	30.54	36.85	30.27	30.95*
TRYSEM	No. of Youth Trained.	2.00	2.46	2.00	2.06	2.00	1.43**
NREP	Mandays	35.32	3512	3222	3028	3091	2850*
RLEGP	Mandays	—	—	—	—	3000	1924*

*Upto February, 1985

**Upto October, 1984

Meeting of Advisory Council on Public Distribution System

3968. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the Advisory Council on the Public Distribution System was held in New Delhi on 29 March, 1985;

(b) if so, the specific problems connected with Public Distribution System (PDS) discussed at the above meeting; and