

[Translation]

Price-index of Agricultural Inputs

4024. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for linking to prices of agricultural products with the price-index of agricultural inputs to defuse the likely impact on fertilizers etc , arising out of the cut made in subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) to (c). The Government announces minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy the CACP considers a number of important factors like cost of production, input/output price parity, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, parity between prices paid and prices received by farmers (Terms of Trade), etc. Thus, changes in input prices are duly taken into account in the formulation of agricultural price policy. According to the existing methodology for recommending minimum support prices, there is a provision for adjustment of minimum support prices announced before sowing season in case of increase in input cost turns out to be higher than an anticipated rise.

Touting Operations

4025. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY :
 SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Touts corner railway tickets for making big bucks during summer rush" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated the March 30, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein as gathered by the Northern Railway and his Ministry, and

(c) the drastic measures the Government have taken or propose to take not only in the capital but in other metro cities also and particularly against the railway staff found acting in collusion with such touts and curb travelling on improper tickets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cases of touts and anti-social elements indulging in cornering of berths/seats have come to the notice of the Railway.

(c) Surprise checks are conducted regularly to check the persons indulging in such activities jointly by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments with the help of GRP/RPF and action is taken against them under the Railways Act. These checks have been intensified during summer rush to curb their activities in this busy period. The staff found involved in or abetting such activities are severely taken up for penal action.

Gauge Conversion

4026. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for conversion of Bardhaman-Katwa Narrow Gauge line into Broad Gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Agricultural Development Projects

4027. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects proposed to be implemented under Agriculture Development Programmes in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the next three years; and

(b) the details of the amount likely to be spent on each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). Major agricultural development programmes implemented by the Government of India in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are given below:

1. Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Wheat (U.P. only)
2. Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Coarse Cereals (M.P. only)
3. Integrated cereal development programme - Rice
4. Intensive Cotton Development Programme
5. Oilseeds Production Programme