

on the Minimum Support Prices of Paddy. Govt. also fix Minimum Export Prices for Basmati and Non—Basmati rice. The present Minimum export Price for Non—basmati rice is US \$ 250 PMT and for Basmati rice it is US \$ 550 PMT. No export of rice is allowed below MEP.

### Promotion of Youth Activities

246. SHRID. VENKATESWARARAO:  
SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special scheme for promoting youth activities in the backward and rural areas had been started;

(b) if so, since when and the allocations made therefor during 1990—91;

(c) to what extent the amount was utilised for that purpose; and

(d) the amount spent on the youth activities in backward and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh during 1990—91, 1991—92 and 1992—93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new scheme by the name of Promotion of youth activities among the youth of Backward Tribes was started in the year 1990—91 with a budget estimates of Rs. 1.00 crore.

(c) A sum of Rs. 27.61 lakhs was utilised by the Government by way grants during 1990—91.

(d) Under this scheme, grants are released on the basis of proposals received. A sanction of Rs. 83,200/— was given to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1990—91. Another sanction Rs. 9.12 lakhs was given to the State

Government in 1991—92 out of which Rs. 2.28 lakhs was released as first installment.

### “Paper Industry”

247. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether paper industry has been given enormous subsidy in terms of State supplied raw material;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure ecological standards in view of growing demands of the paper industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No Sir. Enormous subsidy is not being given to paper industry in terms of State supplied raw material, however like all new industries, States have given concessions to paper industries at initial stage in form of supply of raw material at the rates would give them incentive to set up the industry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ensure ecological standards in view of ground demands of the paper industry, steps taken by the government are as follows:—

(i) Encouraging manufacture of paper from agricultural wastes.

(ii) Encouraging farm forestry for supply of raw material to paper and other industry.

(iii) Import of wood chips and pulp has been liberalised.

(iv) Time bound action plans