

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have already notified the interim relief at 15% of the basic wages subject to a minimum of Rs. 90/- per month as against a rate of 7.5% subject to minimum of Rs. 45/- per month recommended by Wage Boards.

[English]

Remunerative price to farmers for their produce in Tamil Nadu

349. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the high cost of Irrigation, farm labour and inputs the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce, especially for rice, in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure lower cost of cultivation and adequate return to the farmers for their produce ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The procurement/minimum support prices fixed by the Government for important agricultural commodities, including paddy, cover not only the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit. The cost of production covers all paid-out costs as well as the imputed value of owned assets, like, land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses.

The Government's policy is to lay emphasis on developmental programmes besides Central Sector Scheme of Minikit of rice including propagation of new technology which would lead to growth in production and productivity of rice.

[Translation]

Assistance to State Governments to increase foodgrains production

350. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government gives any kind of assistance to States which are deficit in the production of foodgrains to enable them to increase agricultural production;

(b) if so, the number of States provided with such assistance so far and the details of assistance provided to each of them; and

(c) if no assistance has been provided the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) Irrespective of a State being deficit in production of foodgrains or otherwise, Central Government provides funds to the State Governments under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes which aim at increasing agriculture production and productivity. Some of the schemes are :

- (i) Special rice production programme for six eastern States viz. U. P., M. P., Bihar, Assam, Orissa and West Bengal;
- (ii) Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for increasing agricultural production by providing assistance to Integrated Rural Development Blocks;
- (iii) National Watershed Development Programme for Dryland Agriculture in the Watersheds selected by each State;
- (iv) National Pulses Development Programme for increasing production of pulses in the country; and
- (v) Minikit programme of Rice, Wheat, Millets and Pulses including propagation of new technology.