

1	2
Tamil Nadu	3.50
Uttar Pradesh	23.48
West Bengal	2.10
	115.33

**Interim Relief to journalists and non  
journalists**

426. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :  
SHRI KRISHNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be  
pleased to state :

(a) whether journalists and non-journalists have not accepted Government's decision to double the quantum of interim relief to newspaper employees; and

(b) the details thereof and final decision reached between the journalists, non-journalists and Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF  
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI  
P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No. Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

**Cotton and tobacco lying with growers**

427. SHRI MANIK REDDY :

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of cotton and tobacco is lying with the cotton and tobacco growers in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of cotton and tobacco lying with the growers at present State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the purchase of these items from growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (b) The Government fixes minimum support prices in respect of different varieties of cotton and various grades of Virginia Flue Cured tobacco (VFC). For cotton, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been designated as the agency to undertake market support operations in the event of cotton prices tending to fall below the declared support levels. In case of VFC tobacco the Tobacco Board undertakes the necessary price support operations, if required. Accordingly, farmers are free to sell their produce of cotton and VFC tobacco at the ruling market prices with the guarantee that the CCI and the Tobacco Board will enter the market at minimum support price levels for the produce which satisfy the stipulated specifications. In case traders are not willing to do so. In this situation any stocks withheld by growers would be those voluntarily done by them.

During the current cotton season the CCI has been undertaking extensive price support operations in all cotton-growing States, except in Maharashtra where a monopoly procurement scheme of the State Government is being implemented by the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation. The Corporation's purchases in Andhra Pradesh this season totalled 3.34 lakh bales upto the end of June 1986, as against 1.09 lakh bales procured during the whole of previous season.

The auction sales of virginia tobacco for 1986 are already over and there is no VFC tobacco lying unsold with the growers. During the current season a total quantity of 80,460 tonnes of VFC tobacco was sold through auctions in Andhra Pradesh.

In so far as non-virginia tobacco is concerned, though no minimum support prices are fixed by Government, a National level organisation, viz., National Tobacco Growers Federation has been set up to undertake marketing of non-virginia tobacco of its 205 Primary-Level Tobacco