

uneconomic units to reduce the cash losses.

(c) and (d). As a consequence of implementation of the scheme, which may take about 6 months time, ingot steel production will be reduced to 32,000 tonnes/month against the existing average level of around 52,000 tonnes/month.

Bangladesh Media Reports accuse India for Floods

957. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bangladesh radio and public media are accusing India for floods in Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been pointed out that these reports are false and mischievous. The officials of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka have also tried to counter these reports locally.

UGC Grants to Private Affiliated Colleges in Orissa

958. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of colleges in Orissa, which have been granted temporary affiliation by various Universities, are deprived of grants from University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and steps proposed to be taken to provide grants to such Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND

CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) and (b). Colleges which are established after 17th June, 1972 are eligible for financial assistance from the University Grants Commission only if they are declared fit for such assistance by the Commission as per the provisions under section 12 (B) of the UGC Act. The major condition to be fulfilled by colleges for such declaration is grant of permanent affiliation by the concerned university. According to information available six colleges in Orissa have not been granted permanent affiliation by their universities and have not therefore been declared fit for assistance from the UGC. The Commission has brought this matter to the notice of Government of Orissa and the universities in the State and have requested them to review the matter.

Support Prices of Rice, Wheat and Sugarcane

959. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH:
SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the prices being paid to farmers in respect of rice of fine and coarse varieties, wheat, and sugarcane;

(b) whether these prices are considered to be remunerative for the farmers considering the rising cost of inputs of agricultural operations;

(c) whether demands have been made by farmers from different regions to raise the above prices; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Government has fixed the