

Hike in Prices of Palmolein and other Vegetable oils by FPS

107. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of palmolein and other vegetable oil distributed through the network of fair-price shops under the Public Distribution System has shown an abnormal hike in the recent months; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b). The issue price in respect of imported edible oils to be distributed through the Public Distribution System was last revised and increased with effect from 1st September, 1989, by Rs 2,000/- PMT. This increase in price had then become inevitable because of a wide gap between the retail prices of imported edible oils and the derived prices of indigenous edible oils based on the support prices of oilseeds which was acting as a disincentive to farmers on the one hand and posing a danger of its diversion to unauthorised channels; on the other.

Pre-Paid Ticket Advice for Job Seekers Abroad

108. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imposed a new condition that a Pre-paid Ticket Advice (PTA) was essential for emigration clearance for those who get a job in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether a number of representa-

tions have been received by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that this will cause harassment to thousands of job-seekers, particularly from Kerala in the Gulf countries;

(d) whether there is any proposal to reconsider the decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c). The emigration Act 1983 and Rules framed thereunder provide that 'To and fro air passage at the employers' cost' must be included in every contract for employment of an emigrant worker. The provision came into force with effect from 4 February 1987. The provision is meant to protect workers. Accordingly, it will benefit them, rather than harassing them.

(d) and (e). In view of (a) (b) & (c). above does not arise.

Postponement of All India Entrance Test for MD/MS

109. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Entrance test for admission to MD/MS and other courses was postponed recently at the request of some Member of Parliament and a large number of the candidates;

(b) whether it is a fact that there were large-scale discrepancies and bungling in the computer programme done for issuance of hall tickets for these examinations;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry was held and those responsible asked to explain or punished; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the steps taken by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to prevent recurrence of such failures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJKHAPARDE):

(a) and (b). On receipt of complaints about discrepancies/non-receipt of hall tickets by candidates intending to appear in the All India Entrance examination for admission to MD/MS Courses, the Test was postponed.

(c) and (d). The applications numbering about 18,000 were re-checked both through Computer as well as manually and hall tickets for the examination on the 19th February, 1989 issued. Each candidate was sent a fresh letter confirming the Roll Number, Registration Number and Examination Centre. The revised date for the examination was notified in the national newspapers. It was also telecast on National Network of T.V. The Computer firm who were entrusted with the work of processing the applications has been asked to thoroughly investigate as to how discrepancies occurred so as to enable the Institute to take remedial steps to improve the Computer programme to avoid recurrence of such discrepancies.

Fellowships of National Institute of Urban Affairs

110. SHRI MANIK REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of

Urban Affairs, New Delhi, the Institute of Housing Studies, Rotterdam and HUDCO have started a programme for the grant of fellowships;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of fellowships that have been awarded under this Scheme so far and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) and (b). The Indian Human Settlements Programme was started in 1985 as part of technical collaboration agreement with the Government of Netherlands. The programme is being implemented as joint collaboration between Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) through the Human Settlements Management Institute and the Institute for Housing Studies (IHS), Rotterdam, Earlier the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA), was also a party to the joint collaboration. However, in 1987, NIUA's participation was withdrawn.

As a part of the programme, the IHS grants fellowships for various research proposals. The Research investigations are organised as a contracted research cycle. Each year, twelve research projects are implemented, covering workshop subjects viz., housing project finance, settlement design, neighbourhood improvement and slum upgradation, low cost infrastructure participatory construction management cost recovery and estate management, Urban land management and Computer application in human settlement planning.

(c) So, far, two cycles of twelve research fellowships each have been completed. The third research cycle is under way. Each fellowship has a maximum value of Rs. 45,000/-