

Lifting of restrictions on movement of wheat

141. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted the restrictions on the movement of wheat and have increased the procurement price of wheat against the decision of the Agricultural Prices Commission;

(b) if so, to what extent the restrictions on the movement of wheat has helped the farmer and the consumer;

(c) whether the increase has not benefited the farmer much as was promised to him by the Government; and

(d) what are the other incentives that are likely to be given to the farmer to produce more?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This will enable the farmer to get in the open market even a higher price than Rs. 110/- per quintal for wheat produced by him and will also ensure better market availability of wheat in deficit State also.

(c) So far as Government is aware, the increase in the procurement price together with the removal of movement restrictions has benefited the farmer.

(d) Apart from ensuring a remunerative price to the farmer for his produce, the question of providing further relief by way of subsidising inputs like fertiliser etc. is also being considered.

Refugees from Bangladesh

142. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many refugees who had come from Bangladesh and are staying in Assam and who have not been fully looked after due to the inadequate care and grant by the Ministry;

(b) if so, how many of such refugees are in the State;

(c) what steps Union Government are considering to rehabilitate them; and

(d) what is the total Central grants given by the Ministry so far for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) All the refugees who came from Bangladesh since the declaration of Independence on 25th March, 1971 returned to that country when it was liberated and none are in Assam.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Creation of Nuisance to the Colonies in Delhi/New Delhi

143. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's decision to bring back the persons who had occupied the unauthorised places and were given alternative places in lieu thereof have again resettled in the old places;

(b) if so, whether this decision has once again created nuisance to the colonies in Delhi and New Delhi;

(c) whether people have once again started construction of additions and alterations in their houses which were demolished earlier as being built without permission of the Government; and

(d) whether any permission has been sought by them or this has been done as there is no fear now?