

(b) & (c). The implementation of ceiling laws is primarily intended to benefit the landless agricultural labourers. The National Guidelines provide that while distributing ceiling surplus land, priority should be given to landless agricultural workers, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The setting up of committees of beneficiaries at the village and block levels has been recommended.

Recruitment in Government of India Press, New Delhi

843. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in July 1979, 23 copy holders and 8 machine attendants were selected in Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi against newly created posts for Hindi Augmentation Scheme;

(b) whether 8 copy-holders and one machine attendant has been taken on duty and the rest have been denied employment after completing all formalities; and

(c) whether Government will review this and employ the left outs?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) & (b). 23 candidates for Copy Holders and 7 candidates for Machine Attendants were kept in the Select List in July 1979 and June, 1979 respectively, on the basis of then existing and expected vacancies. On the basis of actual vacancies however, only 8 candidates could be appointed as Copy Holders and one as Machine Attendant. The other candidates could not, therefore, be appointed.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Prices of Consumer Goods

844. SHRI R. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of consumer goods like sugar, edible

oil, pulses etc. have increased recently and particularly during the last two months;

(b) if so, the prices during April-May, 1979 and April-May this year; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) While there was increase in the prices of sugar, vanaspati and indigenous edible oils, the prices of imported edible oils and pulses remained steady during the last two months.

(b) Three statements showing the average retail prices of sugar, edible oils and pulses at imported centres during April—May, 1979 and April—May, 1980 are attached (Statement I, II & III).

(c) The Government has taken a series of measures to bring down the prices of consumer goods. These are enumerated below:
Sugar

1. Reduction in stock holding limits of recognised dealers;

2. Strict enforcement of stock holding limits and intensified de-boarding operations through the State Government authorities;

3. Restriction on sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another where the transaction is not accompanied by physical delivery of stocks;

4. Restriction on recognised dealers for turnover of stocks within 10 days period;

5. Monitoring of information relating to sale and despatch of free sale sugar by making it obligatory for sugar mills to furnish particulars of weekly sales and despatches to the concerned State Government authorities;