

(c) the steps being taken to connect the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARIK ORAON): (a) Subscriber Trunk Dialling has not yet been introduced between Calcutta and the KAVAL towns of U.P., viz., Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Agra, Lucknow.

(b) and (c). Expansion of transmission media and the concerned trunk automatic exchanges is necessary for introducing the STD facility. This has been taken in hand but not completed yet.

Support Price of Paddy in Tamil Nadu

5741. **SHRI S. SINGARVADIVAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the support price given by the Union Government for a quintal of paddy is lower than the cost of production of a quintal of paddy in Tamilnadu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the support price given by the Government of Tamilnadu for a quintal of paddy is higher than the support price given for a quintal of paddy by the Union Government; and

(c) what steps Government of India propose to take to get the farmers the fair and reasonable price for the paddy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The assurance of fair and reasonable price to the farmers is a major objective of the Government's price policy. The support/procurement prices fixed by the Government are in the nature of a long-term

guarantee to pursue production efforts with the assurance that in the event of glut in the market, the price of the farmers' produce will not be allowed to fall below the minimum level announced. The cultivators are, however, free to sell their produce in the open market at higher prices. To enable them to get higher prices for their produce the Government have removed all restrictions on the movement of wheat and rice from one part of the country to another. Support purchases are undertaken by the Food Corporation of India, the State Corporations and the State Cooperative Organisations.

Provision of Wash Basin/Sink in Government Quarters, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi

5742 **SHRI BHEEKHABHAI:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2426 on 30th June, 1980 regarding provision of wash basin in Type III quarters in Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi and state:

(a) in view of the upgradation of those quarters and higher rents being charged, whether Government propose to provide wash basin and sink in the quarters of Sarojini Nagar which have been upgraded to Type III so as to bring them at par with type III quarters in DIZ area and Baba Kharak Singh Marg; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Although the type II quarters in Sarojini Nagar have since been upgraded to type III, higher rent is not being charged as a result of the upgradation. There is no proposal to provide wash basin/sink in these quarters.

(b) In view of the reply to (a) above, the question does not arise.