

on Taj Mahal and increasing pollution in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what consideration has been given to the suggestions of the Indian Heritage Society, the various expert studies by conservationists and environmentalists to safeguard the Taj Mahal; and

(d) whether Government have appointed any permanent advisory body to periodically study effect of poisonous pollution on Taj and the surrounding area?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):** (a) and (b). Government have taken decisions to combat the effects of air pollution, on the Taj Mahal and other monuments in Agra. These anti-pollution measures taken cannot be called as permanent as with the continuous advancement in science and technology, improved methods may have to be adopted if needed.

The decisions taken so far relate to controlling the identified sources of pollution. A High Power Committee has been constituted to implement the Government decisions. Besides, an Expert Group has also been set up to examine the results of data obtained through monitoring at various stations and to advise the High Power Committee for taking appropriate preventive actions.

(c) The suggestions mentioned in the representations made by the Indian Heritage Society in respect of protection of the Taj Mahal, against the threat of pollution, have more or less been covered by the decisions taken by the Government.

(d) A High Power Committee has been set up to ensure periodical study of the effects of pollution and to take adequate protective measures to combat the effects of air-pollution

on the Taj Mahal and the surrounding area.

**Export of Rice through Food Corporation of India**

**2876. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed State Government agencies to route all rice export through Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments' export deals with foreign countries have been disapproved by Government on this ground; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) In respect of commercial exports of rice the Food Corporation of India and the designated State agencies are free to export rice independent of each other within the limits of quota and conditions laid down by the Government of India and subject to realisation of minimum export price, where laid down. The Government-to-Government transactions would however be effected through the Government of India, Department of Food.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Minimum support prices of unginned cotton**

**2877. SHRI AMAR SINH RATHAWA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the minimum support price of unginned cotton; and

(b) if so, the details of prices fixed for procurement of unginned cotton of different quality?