

State Government, shortly. It is hoped that entrepreneurs having licences for establishing new units or for expansion of their existing units would now be able to obtain requisite financial assistance from financial institutions and implement their licences without undue delay.

Compulsory Education

134. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI:

SHRI NAND KISHORE SHARMA:

SHRI KESHORAO PARDHI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Compulsory Education Act applies to all the States and Union Territories;

(b) if not, the names of the States which have not so far adopted it; and

(c) the reasons therefor and what steps Government are taking to implement it throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a), (b) and (c). There is no Central legislation on this subject. Such Acts have been enacted by 19 States/Union Territories. The following States/Union Territories have not enacted any such legislation:

Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Daman & Diu, Mizoram, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

The reasons for not legislating on this subject have not been reported by them.

Change in Complexion of Food for Work Programme

135. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to change the complexion of Food for Work Programme; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) The Food for work Programme has already been replaced by National Rural Employment Programme.

(b) A copy of the guidelines giving broad outlines of the scheme is enclosed.

Guidelines on National Rural Employment Programme—1980-81

The 'Food for Work' programme was conceived early in January 1977. Its main objectives to utilise available foodgrains for generating employment in rural areas and creating durable community assets in order to strengthen the rural infrastructure for socio-economic development.

2. In the implementation process of the programme during the last 3 years, a number of defects/shortcomings were noticed. It has, therefore, been suitably modified and restructured. The new programme will be known as the National Rural Employment Programme.

Objectives:

3. The programme will have three basic objectives as under:—

(i) generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons, both men and women, in the rural areas;

(ii) creation of durable community assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure, which will lead to rapid growth of rural economy and steady rise in the income level of the rural poor;

(iii) improvement of the nutritional status and the living standards of the rural people

Implementing Agencies:

4. The programme will be implemented through the state governments and union territory administrations in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Government.

Programme contents:

5. All on-going plan and non-plan schemes as well as new items of works, which result in the creation of durable community assets in rural areas, will fall within this programme. The types of works that can be taken up under the programme are indicated in the annexure. The list is, however, illustrative only.

6. In the execution of works under the programme, preference will be given to the ecologically and economically backward areas, particularly, the areas predominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

Standard and specifications of the works:

7. Standards and specifications of the works to be executed under the programme should be the same as already approved by the technical departments like Irrigation, PWD etc. Wherever standards and specifications or any category of works have not been laid down, approval of the technical authorities concerned in this regard will have to be obtained before executing the works.

Maintenance of assets:

8. Maintenance of assets under the programme will be the responsibility of the state governments/union territories. Necessary provision for maintenance and continuance of the assets

created under the programme will have to be made in the state plan budgets on year to year basis for the entire plan period.

Resources:

9. Under the 'Food for Work' programme only foodgrains were made available to the state governments. The new programme will have a provision of cash component also for purchase of materials to make the assets created durable. The proportion between the value of foodgrains and cash grants to be given to the States/UTs will be roughly in the ratio of 2:1. States may make matching provision in their budgets also to meet any additional requirement of funds for this purpose.

Programme a part of the five Year Plan

10. The national rural employment programme will form part of the sixth five year plan. For the year 1980-81, a budget provision of Rs. 340 crores has been made and the availability of funds for the programme during the remaining years of the plan may be roughly of the same order. The States will be given a clear indication of their respective shares annually, so that work-projects to be taken up under the programme are carefully planned, executed and monitored. The size of the programme will, however, be determined on year to year basis having regard to the buffer stock position and other relevant factors.

Criteria for allocations:

11. The population of the marginal farmers and agricultural labourers on the one hand and the incidence of poverty on the other will form the basis for the allocation of resources to the States/Union Territories. While weightage on account of population of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers will be 75 per cent, for poverty incidence, it will be 25 per cent. The state governments may make district-wise allocations accordingly. Due regard will, however, be given to the on-going works in determining the allocations get completed without delay or damage.

Shelf of projects:

12. The States will prepare a shelf of projects, as a continuous process, on a sufficiently dispersed scale for each district/block, so that the felt needs of the rural community, particularly, of the economically and socially handicapped get catered to on a planned and priority basis. The overall objective will be the systematic development of the rural infrastructure through proper utilisation of local resources.

For preparation of the shelves of projects or the master plans for area development for each block/district, the expertise of local technical institutions like I.I.T.s, Agricultural Universities, engineering colleges etc. as well as voluntary organisations could be utilised. Block level committee, consisting of elected representatives, should be intimately associated with the identification of works to be included in the shelf. It will be essential to indicate *inter se* priority of these projects. A suitable system for the periodic review of projects included in the shelf as well as of monitoring of the projects undertaken for execution should be evolved.

Organisational arrangements for effective implementation:

13. The States will have to provide adequate technical personnel at the block and the higher levels for effective implementation of the programme. Some of the States do have a rural engineering organisation or at least some technical personnel at the block level. Considering the size of the programme, the available staff strength is not adequate. For ensuring effective technical supervision and regular monitoring of the programme, suitable strengthening of the staff will be necessary at block, district as well as state levels.

Priority works:

14. 10 per cent of the resources, made available under the programme, shall be earmarked for works relating

to afforestation, social forestry, fodder and fuel plantation etc. Another 10 per cent shall be earmarked for works directly benefitting the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes like development of house sites group housing, drinking water wells and irrigation wells.

Wages Quantum:

15. The wages will be paid partly in foodgrains and partly in cash. In areas, where wheat is the staple food, the payment of daily wage in kind debitable to the NREP allocation will consist of one Kg. of wheat/coarse grains and one Kg. of rice. In the predominantly rice consuming areas, it will be two Kg. of rice. In addition to aforesaid two Kgs. of foodgrains, cash equal to the cost of one Kg. of wheat/coarse grain will be paid and be debitable to the NREP allocation. The central grant will, therefore, comprise of two Kg. of foodgrains and cash for one Kg. of foodgrains. Normally all the three Kgs. of foodgrains, to be paid as wages to a workman, would have been provided to the states/union territories, but in view of this year's shortfall in foodgrains procurement by the FCI/State Governments resulting from the 1979 drought, the aforesaid arrangement of providing cash in lieu of one Kg. of foodgrains has been decided upon. Any amount over and above the aforesaid rates will be paid by the states out of their own resources and will not be debitable to NREP allocation of foodgrains and cash.

Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions:

16. Since the programme is basically aimed at providing employment to the rural poor, raising their economic status, generating community assets and thereby strengthening the rural infrastructure, it is only appropriate that the panchayati raj institutions are actively involved in its implementation. Given proper technical and administrative support, these institutions have the capability of executing works, fulfilling the needs of the people on a dispersed basis. It would, no doubt, be neces-

sary, to exercise a close and strict supervision and control over the execution of works under the programme so that the scope for malpractices is reduced to the extent possible. It would be desirable, if broad based village panchayat level committees representing various political and other interests are set up for the execution of works.

Banning of contractors:

17. Contractors are to be totally excluded from the execution of this programme as well as from the distribution of foodgrains as wages to workers employed on works under this programme.

Resources—an additionality:

18. The foodgrains as well as the cash assistance given under the programme is an additional resource made available to state/union territories over and above their plan and non-plan resources. The states should, therefore, show clearly that expenditure on existing plan and non-plan schemes, new items of capital works and the maintenance of public works, as the case may be, has been augmented to the extent of the amount of additional resources made available to them in the shape of foodgrains and cash grants.

Steering Committee at the State and the District level:

19. There shall be a steering Committee at the State levels headed by the Chief Minister or Minister in-charge, Rural Development and Panchayats. A few members of Parliament not exceeding seven normally, who represent all interests will also be nominated as members of the State level Steering Committee. Secretaries/Heads of the Departments operating the scheme or concerned with any facet of the programme will be represented on the Committee. A representative of the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and the senior Regional Manager, FCI will be members of the Steering Committee. The Committee should meet regularly at-

least once in three months to make a detailed review of the progress in the implementation of the programme with particular reference to the speed and quality of work, stock position as well as the quality of foodgrains, disbursement of wages to workers, maintenance and scrutiny of muster rolls, measurement books and other work records and progress reports from the field levels. A copy of the proceedings of the meeting is to be regularly forwarded to the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction.

20. Like-wise, at the district level, there shall be a Steering Committee headed by District Magistrate/Collector. It is to include all the departmental Heads concerned with the works taken up in the district under the programme. Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Legislative Council from the districts should also be the members of the District-level Steering Committee. In addition, the members of Parliament not nominated at the State level Steering Committee shall also be the members of the District level Committee. The senior-most officer of the FCI in the District, a representative of Zila Parishad or District Panchayat if such an elected body is functioning in the district, the voluntary agencies, if any, participating in the scheme should also be represented on the Committee. The district level Committee should meet once in a month.

The main task of this Committee will be to plan the works to be taken up under the programme, to determine allocation of resources to the blocks, Panchayats and official agencies executing works departmentally in the district. It has to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of resources to all the areas under its charge and that there is no misuse of any type. It is at this level, that the greatest vigilance will have to be exercised to ensure meticulous compliance of the guidelines on the subject.

Monthly reports and returns:

21. It is necessary that in the beginning of every year, the information regarding existing provision in the State/Union Territory Government budget for ongoing plan and non-plan schemes, new items of capital works as well as for maintenance of public works in respect of which foodgrains are proposed to be utilised should be furnished in the prescribed Proforma-I. A statement indicating details of the works proposed to be taken up under the programme will also have to be furnished in Proforma II in the beginning of each year. In addition, it will be necessary to furnish a monthly progress report in proforma-III. More detailed quarterly progress report as in annexure-IV will also be necessary.

The progress reports will serve the needs of planning and administration of the scheme. These also will enable authorities both at the Centre and at the State levels to keep a close watch on trends and then apply corrective steps. The progress reports will also form the basis for further release of foodgrains under the scheme. It is, therefore, necessary that the State Governments/Union Territories furnish the monthly progress report by 20th of the following month and the quarterly progress report within two months of the close of the quarter.

Infringement of guidelines

22. Any departure from or non-compliance of these guidelines may lead to discontinuance of further allocation of resources under the programme.

ANNEXURE

A list indicating the items of works to be taken up under the Programme

- (i) Medium and minor irrigation works;
- (ii) Flood protection, drainage and anti-water logging works;
- (iii) Soil and water conservation, land reclamation;

(iv) Afforestation and social forestry works on Government and community lands including lands belonging to local bodies like Panchayats etc. roads side plantation, plantations along canal banks and on waste lands on sides of railway lines etc. plantation of trees in the denuded forest areas, and other land unfit for cultivation, plantation of fuel, fodder and fruit trees;

(v) Construction of intermediate and main drains field channels and land levelling etc. in the command areas of irrigation projects; cleaning and desilting of water courses etc.;

(vi) Rural Roads, widening and strengthening of forest roads and canal service roads thrown open to public use, subject to standard specifications;

(vii) School buildings, panchayat ghars, community centres, drinking water wells belonging to Government or local bodies including panchayats or the community in rural areas or drinking water sources for the wild animal in the forest areas, cattle ponds, Pinjrapoles, gaushalas, construction of service complex at the VLW's headquarters and construction of residential accommodation for extension officers and works relating to development of house sites and group housing, drinking water wells|irrigation wells for the benefits of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(viii) Any other work not covered under the above items but which will result in creation of durable assets for the benefit of the rural poor, e.g. providing a village pond or repairing deepening and rejuvenating an existing tank for providing water for human use or for cattle, for developing irrigation or fisheries etc. thereby augmenting the income of the village panchayat which can be used for providing better sanitation or street lighting etc. in the villages; location specific works such as cleaning of irri-

gation reservoirs and channels, fishery tanks of water hyacinth and turning it into organic manures or construction of storage lines.

Increase in Price of Bread

136. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the price of Britannia and Modern Bread; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Central Government had concurred in a proposal from Delhi Administration to revise the statutorily fixed prices of Bread in Delhi, in September, 1980. The revised prices are, however, applicable to all Brands of bread.

(b) The increase ranging between 5 and 15 paise was necessitated because of increase in the cost of maida, sugar, oil, yeast, wrappers and other ingredients used in the production of bread as also distribution costs.

Sugar Policy

137. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been urged to fully decontrol the sugar and give up the present sugar policy; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to this effect has been made by the Indian Sugar Mills Association.

(b) After careful consideration, Government of India have decided to continue the present policy of partial control with dual pricing system.

High Prices and Non-availability of Sugar

138. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the eve of Janamashtmi and Dussehra and Id, the sugar crisis reached a record high;

(b) if so, whether apart from high prices sugar was not available in many parts of the country;

(c) if so, how many persons were arrested and action taken against them;

(d) whether Government fixed a price of sugar at open market at Rs. 6.20 Kg. but the traders also did not respond to this fixed price and continued to charge Rs. 15 or even more from the people;

(e) whether large scale smuggling was also indulged by the traders and a large quantity of sugar was captured by the Government agencies; and

(f) whether, inspite of the large import of sugar this year, the position of sugar is also very acute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). For the festival months of September and October, 1980, Government had made special arrangements for distribution of freesale sugar at fixed prices through State Government agencies under the voluntary offer of the industry to deliver sugar at a fixed ex-factory price of Rs. 450 per quintal exclusive of excise duty to the State Governments for distribution to various categories of consumers at prices fixed around Rs. 6 per Kg. In the absence of this scheme, the price of