

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) (a) The question of fixation of procurement price of wheat for 1981-82 crop is under active consideration of the Government. All relevant factors including escalation of prices of inputs would be kept in view by the Government while deciding on the procurement price.

(b) The Agricultural Prices Commission have in their report on price policy for wheat for the 1981-82 crop estimated that the rise in variable cost in the last three years for wheat production in Uttar Pradesh was 31.7 per cent bringing the cost of production for 1981-82 to an average level of Rs. 121.98 per quintal. In the case of Punjab, the per quintal cost of production for 1981-82 calculated after taking into account the cost escalation, was placed at Rs. 128.45 per quintal for 1981-82. The procurement price of wheat for 1978-79 crop was Rs. 115 per quintal and that for 1980-81 crop Rs. 130 per quintal. For 1981-82, it is yet to be fixed.

(c) The proposal of the APC for fixing the procurement price at Rs. 142 per quintal and the views of the State Governments, the concerned economic Ministries and of the Planning Commission are under the consideration of the Government.

(d) The Government's decision is likely to be announced soon.

Kanhar project pending clearance

2403. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties of not clearing the Kanhar Project in Mirzapur district, UP by the Central Government though the work has been started at state level on the direction of the Central Government;

(b) whether due to absence of clearance of the project the progress of the project is very slow and is not

to be completed within the fixed target; and

(c) if so, what action is going to be taken by the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Agreement on sharing of Kanhar waters has been signed by the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh as on 20-2-1982 and the Project will now be re-considered in the light of the above agreement.

(b) and (c). Execution of irrigation project is the responsibility of the State Government who also fix the targets for the projects. The Central Government has been advising the State Government to first allocate adequate funds to on-going projects and then only to new schemes.

Irrigation projects from Kerala pending clearance

2404. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) details of irrigation projects proposed by Government of Kerala and pending clearance by the Centre;

(b) reasons for delay; and

(c) projects, which are expected to be cleared shortly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). A statement showing the irrigation schemes of Kerala received in Central Water Commission for technical scrutiny and obtaining approval of the Planning Commission indicating their present position of examination is enclosed.

The schemes can be processed further for clearance after the clarifications/replies to the comments are received from the State Government and subject to their techno-economic feasibility and cost effectiveness being established.