

Fixation of wheat price

5751. SHRI L. S. TUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Punjab State for early announcement of the remunerative procurement price for 1981-82 wheat crop at appropriate time and if so, the details thereof and Government decision thereon;

(b) whether in fixing the price Government would consider parity in respect of manufactured goods including the high cost of inputs as also parity in respect of paddy prices; and

(c) whether Government will also enforce uniform sales tax policy in respect of fertilisers and also exempt these from levy of Central Sales Tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) The Report of the Agricultural Prices Commission on Price Policy of Wheat for 1981-82 was referred to the Government of Punjab for their comments and the same have been received. The question of fixing a remunerative procurement price of wheat is under active consideration of the Government.

(b) While fixing the procurement price, the Government would take into consideration all relevant factors including the cost of inputs and price relationships between manufactured goods and other agricultural commodities.

(c) Levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods taking place within a State is a State subject of taxation. The administration of Central Sales Tax leviable on inter-State sale of goods has also been entrusted by law to the State Sales Tax authorities. The Revenue from Central Sales Tax has also been assigned to the States and the State Governments are alone

competent to grant exemption or reduction if they consider it necessary so to do in the public interest.

Implementation of N.R.E.P.

5752. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have diverted the funds provided under National Rural Employment Programme to certain other works; and

(b) if so, the names of such States and the action taken by Government to check this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Sir, no such report appears to have been received.

(b) Question does not arise.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS IN C.P.W.D.

5753. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of posts of Executive Engineers in the C.P.W.D.;

(b) what is the number of officers actually manning these posts (both on regular and *ad-hoc* basis, separate figure);

(c) how many posts are meant for leave reserves; and

(d) how many of these posts would be filled by direct recruits and how many would be filled by the departmental candidates (both degree holders and diploma holders)?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) 367

(b) Regular	130
Ad hoc	237