

been considered as they tend to function on a contractual basis, which is not permitted under NREP. There is no question of setting up a forum in this regard.

Growth Rate of Rice and Wheat

4326. **SHRI CHITTA BASU**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while wheat production increased from 11 million tonnes in 1967 to 42.5 million tonnes in 1982, the output of rice improved only to 57 million tonnes from 35 million tonnes over the same period; and

(b) if so, the specific reasons for such slow growth rate of rice production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA**): (a) The production of wheat in the country has increased from 11.39 million tonnes in 1966-67 to 42.50 million tonnes in 1982-83. The production of rice was 30.44 million tonnes in 1966-67. It reached the maximum level of 53.77 million tonnes in 1978-79. Thereafter it stabilised at around 53.5 million tonnes except in 1979-80 and 1982-83 which were the severe drought years.

(b) The main reasons responsible for slow growth rate of rice production are given below :—

- (i) In wheat the area increased from 12.84 million hectares in 1966-67 to a maximum of 23.15 million hectares in 1982-83 while in case of rice it increased from 35.2 million hectares in 1966-67 to a maximum of 40.7 million hectares in 1981-82;
- (ii) Rice crop is more vulnerable to vagaries of monsoon like floods and drought;
- (iii) Lesser area under irrigation;
- (iv) More vulnerability of the crop to attack of pests and diseases;

(v) Lower consumption of fertilisers; and

(vi) Poor drainage and submergence of crop in a sizeable area.

Implementation of RLEGP

4327. **SHRI CHITTA BASU** :
SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently launched a programme called Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP);

(b) if so, objective of the programme;

(c) the amount so far allocated for the implementation of the programme for the current year;

(d) its implementation in different States; and

(e) how does it differ from the N.R.E.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (**SHRI HARINATHA MISRA**): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programme has the following two basic objectives :

(i) to improve and expand employment opportunities for rural landless with a view to provide guarantee of employment to at least one member of every landless labour household upto 100 days in a year;

(ii) creation of durable assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure, which will lead to rapid growth of the rural economy.

(c) An amount of Rs 100 crores is proposed to be allocated to the various State and Union Territory Governments during 1983-84