

Increase in Price of Levy Sugar

1198. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the price of Levy sugar;

(b) if so, the extent of price increase proposed; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Control on price, distribution and movement of sugar has been removed with effect from 25th May, 1971. There is, therefore, no question of increasing the price of levy sugar.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Legislation to Take Over Concerns Closed Down due to Industrial disputes

1199. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to enact Legislation to empower the Government to take over all industrial concerns which have closed down on account of Industrial disputes; and

(b) if so, when the proposed Legislation is expected to be brought before the Parliament?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Wage Negotiation Committee for Steel Industry

1200. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of STEEL & MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a Wage Negotiation Committee for the steel industry; and

(b) if so, the main features ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and

(b). Presumably the reference is to the Joint Wage Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry which arrived at an agreement on the 27th October, 1970, in regard to the revised wages structure and some other conditions of service for workers in Steel Industry. This Committee has appointed a Standardisation Committee to standardise designations and scales of pay and to bring about uniformity concerning amenities in respect of leave, holiday, medical benefits and retirement age.

The Joint Wage Negotiating Committee will supervise and ensure implementation of the agreement as well as decision concerning standardization during the period of the agreement i. e. 4 years from 1st September, 1970.

Scheme for setting up of Agro-Service Centres in Rural Areas

1201. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:
SHRI R. C. VIKAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme for setting up agro-service centres in rural areas on a pilot basis;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the number and location of centres to be set up, Statewise; and

(d) the estimated cost of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.
(b) Under the scheme, Engineer entrepreneurs will be assisted in the establish-

ment of workshops in the rural areas for repair, maintenance and hiring of agricultural machinery such as tractors, drilling rigs, plant protection and irrigation equipment and for taking up such allied activities as sale of spare parts, inputs etc. which would provide added income and work.

Investments per centre may range from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 lakhs depending upon the type and size of activity which would be met by the entrepreneurs out of loan from State Bank of India, nationalised banks and other financial institutions. To assist the entrepreneurs in the setting up of the centres, the Government of India has also earmarked imported tractors and other agricultural machinery for priority allotment to the centres. The State Governments/Agro-Industries Corporations have also been requested to assist entrepreneurs in formulating viable schemes and in securing loans from the financial institutions.

(c) Initially it is proposed to set up 500 centres on a pilot basis throughout the country. The number of centres would be increased depending upon the experience and response from entrepreneurs. The scheme envisages establishment of 20 to 30 centres in the bigger States; 15 to 20 centres in the smaller States and 3 to 10 centres in the Union Territories in the initial stages.

(d) The finance required for procurement of machinery etc. for establishment of Agro-service centres is to be obtained by the individuals from the State Bank of India, Nationalised Banks and other financial institutions. The Ministry of Industry, Government of India, is implementing a scheme, "Training of and Assistance to Engineer Entrepreneurs". Under this scheme 3 months training with free board and lodging of Rs. 250/- p.m. in lieu thereof, and subsidy of about 4 1/2% on the interest charges on the loans advanced by the commercial banks are paid. A

provision of Rs. 3 crores has been made during IV Plan for the training programme and financial incentives under the above scheme. The scheme for establishing Agro Service Centres of Agriculture Ministry also qualify for assistance under the above scheme and steps are being taken to set up new centres under this scheme.

Allocation to States for Relief to Unemployed Persons

1202. SHRI N. K. SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allotted to each State for relief to the unemployed persons as per vote-on-account budget 1971-72; and

(b) the suggestion made by the Central Government to the State Governments for spending the amount in any particular manner?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) Presumably the reference is to the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment for which an outlay of Rs. 50 crores has been provided during the current year 1971-72. Allocations to the State Governments and Union Territories are to be made at the rate of Rs. 12.50 lakhs per district.

(b) In the guidelines issued by the Department of Community Development to the State Governments and Union Territories for formulation and implementation of the schemes, it has, inter-alia, been suggested that :-

(a) Careful attention should be paid to the proper identification of areas to ensure that (i) additional employment opportunities through these schemes reach out to those areas where they are needed most, and (ii) areas selected are those where appropriate works of labour intensive nature can be fruitfully undertaken and the work projects proposed in them are