

3. Under the financial pattern of the scheme the Central and State Governments have to share the expenditure on a 2:1 ratio. Information regarding the total expenditure incurred on the National Service Scheme since its inception is being collected.

Percentage of increase in issue prices of wheat and rice sold through Public Distribution System

3175. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue prices of wheat and rice sold through the Public Distribution System have recently been increased;

(b) if so, the price increase in terms of percentage and paise per kilogram; and

(c) its impact on the working class cost of living index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, since November, 1973. The increase has been of the order of 25 to 26 per cent or 25 to 32 paise per kilogram for rice and 143 to 154 per cent or 12 paise per kilogram in the case of wheat.

The index for November will be compiled some time in December. However, it is roughly estimated that the impact of the increase in the issue prices on the composite index would be of the order of 2 per cent.

Transport policy for Western Coast

3176. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the question of the formulation of a comprehensive transport policy for the West Coast between Mangalore-Goa, Bombay;

(b) whether special attention will be paid to provision of cheap passen-

ger shipping service to the people of this Konkan area in view of the gap in the Railway communication in this area; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme, including take over of existing shipping concerns?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The present Konkan Coastal passenger shipping service is operating between Bombay and Panaji. This service has been taken over from Chowgule Steamships Ltd., on 7-11-73 and is now being operated by the Mogul Line, a public sector shipping Company on a no-profit no-loss basis.

Scheme for takeover of wholesale trade in rice in Assam

3177. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 150 on the 12th November, 1973 regarding States desirous of taking-over wholesale trade in rice and state the broad outlines of the scheme adopted in Assam for take over of wholesale trade in rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): The main features of the scheme are as follows:—

1. Reduction of the limit of purchase or sale in retail quantities by the licensed dealers to 2.5 quintals of rice or 4 quintals of paddy on any one calendar day;
2. Reduction of the limit for milling paddy under a permit to 2.5 quintals, till 28th February, 1974.
3. Reduction, for a period of three months, or the quantities allowed to be moved or transported from specified areas without a permit to 2.5 quintals of rice or 4 quintals of paddy.