

Control on price of imported fertiliser

3743. SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and extent of control exercised by Government on price of fertilisers from import upto retail distribution including cost of mixtures;

(b) whether Government are aware that the large distributing firms of imported fertilisers realised from tea estates 3 to 4 times the price they pay to Government; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) In respect of three nitrogenous fertilisers, namely, Urea, Ammonium Sulphate and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, whether imported or indigenously produced, Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture, lays down the maximum retail prices at which these can be sold to the cultivator. This is a statutory directive issued under the Fertiliser Control Order. In respect of the rest of the imported fertilisers, Government of India fixes the Pool issue prices, that is, the prices at which various types of fertilisers are sold by the Central Fertiliser Pool and also indicates the distribution margin for each fertiliser and the final price for the cultivator. These prices are, however, not in the nature of statutory directives. Government of India does not lay down the sale prices of various types of mixtures in which imported fertiliser may have been used as intermediates.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Yakshagana form of Art

3744. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance provided for the Yakshagana form of popular art;

(b) whether any troupes of Yakshagana have been sent abroad as a form of Indian folk art; and

(c) what are the tests to which the artistes of Yakshagana are subjected to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) As part of the fellowship Scheme implemented by the Sangeet Natak Akademi on behalf of the Government of India, a training programme for Yakshagana was instituted at the Yakshagana Kendra, Udipi. In that connection, a total expenditure of Rs. 34,000 (approximate) was incurred by the Akademi on payment of fellowship fees to the Guru and salaries for the accompanist drummer and Bhagavata during the period 1-6-1973 to 31-3-1974. Also in 1973, an intensive course in Yakshagana was conducted in the National School of Drama with the help of an eminent Yakshagana expert and professional dance gurus and musicians from Karnataka. At the end of the course, the students of the School presented a full length Yakshagana play. The total expenditure incurred by the School on salary, travelling, stay, etc. of the teachers and on the presentation of the play came to Rs. 36,273.

Besides the above, during the current year, 1974-75, the Sangeet Natak Akademi has given a grant of Rs. 7,500. to the Yakshagana Kendra, Udipi, for salaries of teachers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Selection of artists and troupes included in cultural delegations sent abroad is made on the basis of a panel prepared by Sangeet Natak Akademi and on the advice of a Standing Committee.

UGC sponsored seminars on autonomous Colleges, Examination reform and post graduate education

3745: SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lately the seminars held in Southern and Western regions on autonomous colleges, examination reforms, and post graduate education sponsored by UGC is fore-runner of the seminars on the subjects in all regions of the country;

(b) if so, in how many different regions similar seminars were held during the last three years;

(c) whether the opinion are unanimous or different on three different subjects and what are they, and

(d) the opinion of the seminar if any on selective admission in university course?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) and (b). The University Grants Commission has organised during 1974 four Zonal Workshops on Autonomous Colleges, Examination Reforms and Development of Post-Graduate Education at the following Universities:—

(1) Madurai University, Madurai; July 25—27, 1974 for Southern Zone;

(ii) Gujarat University, Ahmedabad; August 3-5-1974 for Eastern Zone;

(iii) Panjab University, Chandigarh; September 16—18, 1974 for Northern Zone, and

(iv) Utkal University, Bhubaneswar; November 26—28, 1974 for Eastern Zone.

No such specific Workshops were held by the Commission earlier.

(c) The recommendations are generally on the same lines, except in matters of details. Copies of the recommendations of the Workshops have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(d) A suggestion was, *inter-alia*, made at the Workshop held at Ahmedabad that the admission to the post-graduate courses should be on selective basis for those who have a proven capacity and aptitude to benefit from it. It was further suggested that a certain grade (or percentage of marks) may be fixed as the minimum qualifications for admission to a postgraduate course. Others may join the non-formal courses through correspondence or non-conventional applied courses of short duration (Certificate/Diploma courses). The Workshop held at Bhubaneswar also recommended that in the context of planned development facilities for Post-Graduate Education be made available to students who have graduated in the Honours course with 50 per cent of the marks (B Grade), this requirement being adjusted according to the subjects. Besides, the most meritorious pass course graduates must not be entirely debarred from access to the Post-graduate stage.