

examinations conducted by different types of Universities and also for examination at the elementary and secondary stages. Some important issues like Internal Assessment, Marks and Grades, National Examination and Question Banks have been discussed. The report of the Working Group has been circulated to all the State Governments to take immediate steps to implement these recommendations with such modifications as may be necessary to suit local conditions. A copy of the report has been placed in the Parliament Library.

The University Grants Commission has generally endorsed the recommendations made by the Group and has circulated them to the Universities and Colleges for their guidance. The Commission has also appointed an Implementation Committee on Examination Reform.

One of the conditions of Central assistance for introduction of the new U.G.C. scales of pay is that no remuneration will be payable to teachers of Universities and Colleges in connection with examination work. This is likely to act as a catalyst for programme of examination reform.

It is hoped that implementation of examination reform along the lines suggested by the Group as also due to the condition linked with introduction of the new U.G.C. pay scales will help considerably in putting the examinations in proper perspective and in eliminating, to a considerable extent, the use of unfair means, and thereby improving the merit value of the examination results.

Criteria for Fixation of Procurement Price of Wheat and Paddy

8023. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production is taken into account in determining

the procurement price of wheat and paddy;

(b) if so, the cost of production for paddy and wheat in the Eastern Region, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) whether subsidies given to the paddy and wheat growers are the same in so far as supply of inputs is concerned; and

(d) if not, the difference in subsidy in respect of each and whether the big gap in the present procurement prices of paddy and wheat is a positive disincentive in achieving self sufficiency in rice and if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The procurement prices of wheat and paddy are fixed by Government after careful consideration of all relevant factors and keeping in view the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission which takes into account the cost of production and suitable increases for the escalation in the cost of inputs etc.

(c) The Central Government are not giving any subsidy to the growers for supply of inputs.

(d) Does not arise.

Carrying of Text Books in Examination Halls in U.P.

8024. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Government has sought the Centre's consent to allow students to carry text books with them inside examination halls;

(b) whether Government consider it that this would eliminate the