

**Ceiling Price of Cotton**

2078. Shri M. Amersey: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how the present ceiling price of cotton compare with the prevailing prices of other agricultural commodities with 1953-54 as the base year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): A statement is attached.

**Statement**

The ceiling price of the basic variety of cotton namely Vidharbha/M.P. Virnar is Rupees 1166 per candy for the year 1966-67. The prevailing prices of other agricultural commodities vary from State to State and sometimes from place to place. For the sake of convenient comparison, the index numbers of the whole-sale prices of cotton as well as other agricultural commodities with 1953-54 as the base year, are given below:—

(Base 1953-54=100)

Commodity	Index numbers of wholesale prices for 1966-67
Raw cotton . . . . .	134.6
Bajra . . . . .	208.4
Jowar . . . . .	198.7
Cereals . . . . .	178.1
Pulses . . . . .	215.6
Rice . . . . .	173.9
Wheat . . . . .	170.6
Gram . . . . .	222.4
Raw Jute . . . . .	271.7
Oil Seeds . . . . .	242.6
Tobacco (Raw) . . . . .	122.6

**Refund of Railway Fare**

2080. Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:  
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any refund of fare is allowed to passengers and students with escorts who miss the train for any reason on return of unused tickets after the departure of the train;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (c). (i) In the case of unused passenger tickets, including those for students with escorts, on which no reservation has been made and which are surrendered within three hours after departure of the train, for any reason other than want of room on the train, refund of fares is allowed by the Station Master after deducting 15P towards clerkage. (If the ticket is returned for want of room on the train, the full fare is refunded). If the unused ticket is surrendered after the lapse of this time limit, refund is granted subject to a deduction of 10 per cent of the amount refundable under special circumstances only and on application to the Head Office of the Railway concerned.

(ii) In the case of unused tickets on which reservation has been made, if they are surrendered up to the booked time of departure of the train, refund is granted by the Station Master after deducting the prescribed cancellation charges, which vary from Rs. 2 to Rs. 30 for Air-conditioned and First Class tickets and from 50P to Rs. 10 for Second and Third Class tickets, depending on the length of notice of cancellation.

However, if the unused tickets are surrendered after the booked time of departure of the train, refunds are granted under special circumstances only and on application to the Head Office of the Railway concerned and are subject to the deduction of 25 per