

uled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students studying in Medical and Engineering Colleges in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the amount allocated under the Scheme to Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The required information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Rs. 9.68 Lakhs.

Scheduled Tribe Employees

1404. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of Scheduled Tribe employees in the Tribal Welfare Division of the Ministry of Welfare, category-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to fill up the vacant posts for Scheduled Tribes in the said division; and

(c) if so, the progress made so far and the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The posts in the Ministry of Welfare are filled by the Department of Personnel and Training under the Central Staffing Scheme or the Central Secretariat Service Scheme. Division-wise recruitment is not made by the Ministry of Welfare. The number of ST employees, Group-wise in the Tribal Welfares. Division is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

Diversion of Basmati Rice to Export Trade

1405. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the

Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether superior variety of basmati rice has disappeared practically from the domestic market due to large scale diversion to export market; and

(b) if so, the quantity of the superior variety of basmati rice produced in the country during 1990-91 and 1991-92 and the quantity exported therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The production of rice variety-wise i.e. basmati and others does not fall under the forecast reporting system. As per the current assessment the production of total rice during the year 1991-92 may be in the range of 73.0 to 73.5 Million tonnes against the estimated production of 74.59 million tonnes during the year 1990-91.

The quantity of basmati rice exported during 1990-91 was 2,41,830 MTs and during the period from 1st April, 1991 to 31st January, 1992, a quantity of 1,80,594 MTs of basmati rice has been exported.

[*Translation*]

Disputes between Punjab and Haryana

1406. SHRI JANGBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to take any fresh initiative to resolve the various disputes between Punjab and Haryana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). With the completion of election and the restoration of the popular government in Punjab, it is hoped that the outstanding issues between Punjab and Haryana will be resolved through discussions and mutual adjustments. The Govt. of India will provide whatever assistance is required towards an amicable solution to the problem.

Blackmarketing of Petroleum Products

1407. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1277 on November 28, 1991 and state:

(a) whether regarding black marketing of petroleum products has since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The information has not yet become available. It is being collected from all the States.

[English]

Replacing Physical Control on Agricultural Sector

1408. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace physical control on the Agricultural sector by price mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). There is generally no physical control in the agricultural sector.

Under the existing agricultural price mechanism, the interests of the farmers are being ensured by announcing minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities and organising price support operations by Government and co-operative agencies.

Prawn Culture Project in West Bengal

1409. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prawn project in West Bengal is being implemented with the financial assistance from the Department of Bio-technology; and

(b) if so, the location thereof and the year of its commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Department of Bio-technology at present is not supporting any prawn culture project in West Bengal.

Oil Exploration in Eastern Areas

1410. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for oil exploration in the Eastern areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and