

1	2	3	4	5
11.	West Bengal	0.05	0.07	0.08
12.	Nagaland	0.01	0.01	0.01
13.	Andhra Pradesh	6.47	8.74	8.66
14.	Karnataka	8.31	12.25	12.67
15.	Tamilnadu	10.85	18.59	16.22
16.	Pondicherry	0.37	0.62	0.57
17.	Kerala	0.02	0.11	0.13
18.	Goa	0.08	0.16	0.19
	All India	98.24	146.43	164.29

Support Price of Jute

2195. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prices of raw jute has declined during the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the jute growers have been facing serious crisis due to non remunerative price fixed for raw jute and the Jute Corporation of India is also not procuring raw jute from the growers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fix the support price of raw jute in view to protect the interest of the growers and to start procurement from the growers by the JCI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Large jute crop of 97.5 lakh bales during 1996-97 leaving an estimated carry over stock of over 24 lakh bales as also the good prospects during 1997-98 are the main factors for declining trend in the prices of raw jute.

(c) to (e) The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for TD-grade of Assam for the year 1997-98 at Rs. 570 per quintal as against

MSP of Rs. 510 per quintal for the year 1996-97. This price is also Rs. 20 per qtl. higher than that of Rs. 550 per qtl. recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. While announcing the MSP, the Government has taken into account all relevant factors including cost of production.

The Government has already advised the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) to step up procurement of jute. The following measures have already been taken to protect the interest of the raw jute growers;

(i) JCI have been directed to start MSP operations.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start MSP operations.

(iii) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI an enhanced credit limit of Rs. 10.00 crores valid upto July, 1997.

(iv) Government of India has also sanctioned a Bank guarantee for Rs. 33 crores for MSP operations by JCI.

(v) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI to enhance the activities on MSP operations.

The Hon. Minister of Textiles had already written to the Hon. Minister of Food and the Hon. Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other fertiliser companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags.

[Translation]

Scholarship Schemes to SC/ST

2196. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount sanctioned under the scholarship scheme for studies of the students belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are considering to increase the amount of scholarship in view of the souring prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Central assistance released to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Central Assistance Released
1994-95	96.35
1995-96	144.86
1996-97	179.93

(b) and (c) The maintenance allowance rates under the scheme have already been increased by about 50% in case of professional and technical courses and by about 30% in case of non-professional and non-technical courses, with effect from 1.10.1995.

[English]

Setting up of Agri. Market

2197. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has set up a "Agri Market" in the State;

(b) if so, the details of such markets in the country, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to set up such markets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of regulated markets set up in different States including Karnataka, are given in the attached Statement.

(c) Except Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep, all the States have enacted Agricultural Produce Market Acts.

However, the Government is pursuing with the States/ Union Territories that have not yet enacted legislation for regulation of agricultural produce markets, to enact their legislation at the earliest.

Statement

Number of Wholesale Assembling and Regulated Markets as on 31.3.1997

S. No.	State/UT	Wholesale Market	Regulated Principal	Markets/ Sub-Markets	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	823	244	579(1)	823
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	172	15	19	34
4.	Bihar	*443	122	706	828
5.	Goa	11	1	4	5
6.	Gujarat	384	154	225	379
7.	Haryana	275	100	175	275
8.	H.P.	35	8	27	35
9.	J & K	26		APMR Act not yet passed	
10.	Karnataka	462	133	329	462
11.	Kerala	348	5	-	5(2)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	607	296	311	607
13.	Maharashtra	829	258	571	829