

economic package. Unless and until it is done, it is only a fantasy to think about giving compulsory and free education to children.

My next suggestion is that the Government should try to eliminate the differences among several kinds of schools in the same course because it will create differences in the society. The Government must try to exhaust all its efforts to improve the rural schools and rural public schools. They should not encourage setting up of Navodhaya Vidhyalaya or Central Schools because it will create differences in the society. In the ensuing Ninth Five Year Plan, the Government should exhaust all its efforts to improve rural schools. I think it is being done.

The Bill envisages education as the higher level. But my suggestion is the first children should be encouraged to get proper education at the primary level and then they can think of higher studies.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ventilate my ideas.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill which is moved by Dr. Subbarama Raddy, my learned colleague.

- This Bill is for providing compulsory education for all in our country.

Sir, we are on the threshold of the twenty-first century. When we are marching towards the twenty-first century, the demand for education is increasing manifold. In the past the goal of education was very limited. It was for imparting knowledge, skills and values. But at the present stage of development of mankind, education goes beyond these limited aims. It has to be geared to meet the imperatives of the growth, elimination of economic imbalance and other allied aspects, such as technological upgradation, demands for globalisation and international competitiveness.

17.50 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Minimum support Prices for Kharif Crops and Raw Jute For 1996-97 Season-Laid

[Translation]

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding minimum support price policy for kharif crops and raw Jute for 1996-97 season.

The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price of Paddy (Common) of Fair Average Quality at Rs.380 per quintal for the 1996-97 season. This marks

an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price of Rs.360 fixed for 1995-96 season. The prices for Fine and Superfine varieties of paddy have been fixed as Rs.395 and Rs.415 per quintal respectively. This also marks an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price of previous season for both the varieties.

The Minimum Support Price of Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra and Ragi) of Fair Average quality has been fixed at Rs.310 per quintal which marks an increase of Rs.10 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season. For Maize also the increase is Rs.10 and the Minimum Support Price fixed is Rs.320 per quintal.

The Minimum Support Price of Kharif Pulses viz. Arhar (Tur), Moong and Urad of Fair Average Quality has been raised by Rs.40 per quintal over the previous year's price and fixed at Rs.840 per quintal for 1996-97 season.

The Minimum Support Price of Groundnut-in-shell of Fair Average Quality has been fixed at Rs.920 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for last crop.

The Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow has been fixed at Rs.700 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 over the price fixed for 1995-96 season. Similarly the Minimum Support Price for Soyabean Black has been fixed at Rs.620 per quintal showing an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for the last season.

At Rs.960 per quintal the minimum support price of Sunflower Seed shows an increase of Rs.10 per quintal over the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of Sesamum has been fixed at Rs.870 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the previous season. Similarly at Rs.720 per quintal the Minimum Support Price of Nigerseed shows an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of F-414/H-777 Cotton has been fixed at Rs.1180 which marks an increase of Rs.30 per quintal over the previous year. Similarly at Rs.1380 per quintal the Minimum Support Price of H-4 Cotton also shows an increase of Rs.30 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

The Government has also decided to fix the Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute for 1996-97 season at Rs.510 per quintal for TD-5 grade of Raw Jute in Assam as against Rs.490 per quintal fixed for the 1995-96 season. The corresponding prices for other grades of raw jute will be fixed in the light of normal market price differentials.

It is expected that these Minimum Support Prices will enthruse the farmers to invest more and achieve further increases in production and productivity of these crops.

ANNEXURE

Minimum Support Prices of Kharif Crops

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	1995-96	1996-97		Increase in MSP in 1996-97 over 1995-96	
			Recommended by CACP	Fixed by Govt.	As per CACP recommendation	As per Govt. decision
Paddy	Common	360	370	380	10(2.8)	20(5.6)
	Fine	375	390	395	15(4.0)	20(5.3)
	Superfine	395	410	415	15(3.8)	20(5.1)
Jowar	-	300	310	310	10(3.3)	10(3.3)
Bajra	-	300	310	310	10(3.3)	10(3.3)
Maize	-	310	320	320	10(3.2)	10(3.2)
Ragi	-	300	310	310	10(3.3)	10(3.3)
Tur (Arhar)	-	800	840	840	40(5.0)	40(5.0)
Moong	-	800	840	840	40(5.0)	40(5.0)
Urad	-	800	840	840	40(5.0)	40(5.0)
Groundnut-in-shell	-	900	920	920	20(2.2)	20(2.2)
Soyabean	Yellow	680	700	700	20(2.9)	20(2.9)
Soyabean	Black	600	620	620	20(3.3)	20(3.3)
Sunflower Seed	-	950	960	960	10(1.1)	10(1.1)
Cotton	F-414/H-77	1150	1180	1180	30(2.6)	30(2.6)
	H-4	1350	1380	1380	30(2.2)	30(2.2)
Sesamum	-	850	870	870	20(2.4)	20(2.4)
Nigerseed	-	700	720	720	20(2.9)	20(2.9)
Jute	TD-5 In Assam	490	510	510	20(4.1)	20(4.1)

Figures in bracket indicate percentage rise.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : What the hon. Minister has offered by way of support price?...*(Interruptions)*

- MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Already, The Private Member's Bill has taken considerable time and in order to avoid further wastage of time, he has laid the copy which will be circulated to you immediately.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : We should at least know the contents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will know about it after reading it, otherwise you will be wasting the time.

17.53 hrs.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL-Contd.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The system prevailing in our country was adopted from the British Rule. Now, the thinking all over the world about education is in a wider perspective. Education plays an important role in building a more just, free and generous and, above all, a more peaceful and prosperous world. We have to prepare the citizens for the next century. The access to knowledge by all should not be at the mercy of others or influenced by events. We have to provide opportunities for all to get the best education. We must have a say in the future of the society. So,