

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : What about the absent-mindedness of the Ministers ?

MR. SPEAKER : Also granted !

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE* CENTRAL ISSUE
AND OPEN MARKET SALES
PRICES OF WHEAT FOR
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
SYSTEM AND OTHER
SCHEMES

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, as the House is aware, the support price of wheat to be paid to the farmer in the coming rabi season was raised by the Government from Rs. 166 to Rs. 173 per quintal. This increase, which higher than that of the last three years, was widely welcomed.

The Central Government also fixes the price of wheat issued from the Central Pool to the State Governments for distribution under the public distribution system and other related schemes. Consequent upon the Government's decision to increase the support price of wheat by Rs. 7.00 per quintal, the Government have decided to refix the Central issue prices of wheat to absorb the increase in the support price and some related costs and to contain the food subsidy.

The revised Central issue prices of wheat will be as follows :

- (i) For the public distribution system, it will be Rs. 204 per quintal

instead of the existing Rs. 195 per quintal; and

- (ii) For the ITDP areas and tribal majority States, it will be Rs. 139 per quintal against the existing Rs. 130 per quintal and the consumer price will be Rs. 164 per quintal instead of Rs. 155 per quintal.

The price of wheat for open market sales will be Rs. 240 per quintal.

All these prices will be effective from 25th March, 1988.

12.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

- (i) Demand for Special Grants to the State of Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Sir, Goa has recently attained Statehood. It is now the endeavour of the State Government to see that Goa has a strong and viable economy. However, new-born States have their own Problems, and it has been the practice of the Central Government to aid and assist such States. This was done in the case of north-eastern States and it is still being done by including these States under special category.

People of Goa demanded Statehood in order to get the real power of governance. As a Union Territory, the entire responsibility of financing the Budget proposals rested with the Central Government. This position should not be entirely changed upon Goa's attainment of Statehood.

Therefore, Goa should be included in the list of special category State and special grants should be allotted to the State to help it to have self-sufficient economy.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (ii) Demand for setting up Training Centres for Handlooms Weavers in Gorakhpur and Varanasi

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to raise this