

by the Government after taking into account the relevant considerations like the procurement price paid to the farmers; procurement incidental incurred by the procuring agencies; the interest on the capital for a limited period; and transportation cost upto the FCI godowns.

Similarly, Issue Price of LPG and Kerosene are decided by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas after considering the relevant factors.

No decision to change the current issue prices of the aforesaid commodities has so far been taken".

2. The revised answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question may kindly be read as follows :

"Issue prices of wheat and rice sold through Public Distribution System are fixed by the Government after taking into account the relevant considerations like the procurement price paid to the farmers; procurement incidentals incurred by the procuring agencies; the interest on the capital for a limited period; and transportation cost upto the FCI godowns. As regards sugar, the retail issue price of levy sugar for distribution through Public Distribution System is fixed keeping in view the all India average ex-factory price of levy sugar, excise duty and cess, distribution costs and elements for previous arrears, if any.

Similarly, Issue Prices of LPG and Kerosene are decided by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas after considering the relevant factors.

No decision to change the current issue prices of the aforesaid commodities has so far been taken".

3. There is no change in the reply given to parts (c) and (d) of the question.

(ii) The question relates to issue prices of LPG, kerosene, sugar, rice and wheat concerning Ministry of petroleum, Department of Food and Department of Food Procurement and Distribution. As the information regarding the correction had to be obtained and verified, it took some time to apply for correction.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for Construction of a Bye-Pass on National Highway No. 52 at North Lakhimpur, Assam**

[English]

SHRI BALIN KULI (Lakhimpur) : Sir, North Lakhimpur is the district headquarter of Lakhimpur district and a rapidly growing town. The population of this town has increased manifold and the commercial activities have been increasing rapidly here. The National Highway

No. 52 goes through the district headquarter town to Dhemaji, Jonain and Pasighat of Arunachal Pradesh. But this road is very narrow to cater to the needs of the rapidly increasing traffic. Due to heavy traffic running through this narrow National Highway, accidents regularly occur there, which have been causing loss of lives and property of the people of the town. Particularly during the Monsoon season, traffic jams create havoc for the people of the town. Movement of vehicles, including goods trucks, passenger buses, etc., becomes standstill. There is an urgent need for a bypass on this National Highway No. 52 at North Lakhimpur town to avoid inconvenience to the people and for smooth running of the traffic.

I urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter seriously.

- (ii) **Need to give Clearance to the Pending Irrigation Projects of Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra**

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur) : Sir, the irrigation backlog of Eastern Vidharbha region has mounted to a staggering Rs. 2,412 crore with not a single project, out of 91 taken up in the last, two decades coming anywhere near completion. The region saw a flurry of projects being launched in early 1970's. The list of 91 dams planned by the Irrigation Department included 8 major and 20 medium projects; one of the projects named 'Gosikhurd' was launched by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India. These projects together needing an estimated investment of Rs. 716 crore were planned to create irrigation potential of 6.83 lakhs in Nagpur, Bhandare, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Wardha districts for total transformation of the predominately rainfed agriculture. The goal of providing irrigation facilities to parched land is nowhere in sight as all these projects are pending due to Forest Conservation Act even after spending Rs. 720 crore. Due to delay in clearance of these projects the cost has escalated from Rs. 716 crore to Rs. 3, 102.46 crore and the State would have to spend another huge amount of Rs. 2,412 crore to complete the dam and canal work planned sometime in 1970's and early 1980's.

Considering the cost escalation and other factors, I urge upon the Government of India to give its clearance to the pending irrigation proposals from the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra so that the work on these projects can be started without further delay.

- (iii) **Need to stop Shifting of Research and Development wing of the Government Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur to Pune**

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur) : Sir, I wish to invite attention of this august House to a very disturbing report for the people of Jabalpur and the areas around. The people of Jabalpur are agitated against the reports that the Research and Development