

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I have got the information—not for all commodities—but for certain major gricultural commodities. I have already said that for wheat, our projected cost of production for this year, present crop, is Rs. 120 to 125 per quintal in Punjab and Harayana. But in Bihar, it may be slightly more or may be less. I do not have the figure. In U.P. it is slightly higher.

For paddy, in Orissa, it is quite low. It is Rs. 113 per quntal for the present year. In Andhra Pradesh, it is estimated to be Rs. 120 per quintal for paddy. In Tamil Nadu, it is somewhat higher.

Mr. Shastri pleaded for at least 15% margin of profit. Actually, it is more than that, on the price basis of prices fixed.

If the cost of production for Punjab and Haryana where maximum procurement takes place is Rs. 120-125, at the announced price of Rs. 152 the profit is nearly 20% and not 15% or 10%. They are giving them much higher profit.

(Interruptions)

That should satisfy Shri Ramavatar Shastri. We are doing all that we

could. If there are any places where wheat is selling at less than the price fixed, then I will request him to give information to my hon. colleague Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad who will take it up.

SHRI RHMAVATAR SHASTRI : Do you have any information now ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We have information. We have no reports at present that in any Mandi in Bihar wheat is being sold at a price lower than Rs. 152 fixed by the Government. But I am sure my colleague will take it up again and take necessary steps to rectify the position if anywhere what is not selling at the Government fixed price.

15.12 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their fifteenth Report have recommended that leave of absence be granted to the following Members for the periods mentioned against each :—

1. Shri Qazi Saleem	23rd February to 6th April, 1984
2. Shri D. Pattuswamy	22nd December, 1983 and 23rd February to 17th April, 1984
3. Shri L. S. Tur	21st and 22nd December, 1983 and 23rd February to 19th April, 1984
4. Shri Ananda Gopal Mukhepadhyay	2nd March to 21st April, 1984
5. Shri K. B. Choudhari	1st March to 27th April, 1984
6. Shri P. V. G. Raju	18th April to 4th May, 1984

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

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

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

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Further incentive should be given for absenteeism.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have got sufficient reasons, perhaps.

15.13 hrs.

Petition re : Proposed Closure of Nationalised Companies, namely Raniganj No. 2 Works and Durgapur Works (Burn Standard Co. Ltd. Distt. Burdwan)

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Haradhan Roy and others regarding proposed closure of nationalised companies, namely, Raniganj No. 2 Works and Durgapur Works (Burn Standard Company Ltd., District Burdwan).

15.14 hrs.

LEVY SUGAR PRICE EQUALISATION FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : Sir, I beg to move for

leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Act 1976.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir I introduce the Bill.**

15.15 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Power shortage in Uttar Pradesh

श्री बी. डी. सिंह (फूलपुर) : समापति महोदय, मत 1 मई से उत्तर प्रदेश में बड़े पैमाने पर विद्युत कटौती लागू कर दी गई है, जिससे प्रदेश में विषम परिस्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई है। यह कटौती विभिन्न प्रकार के उद्योगों तथा घरेलू उपभोगों पर लागू होगी। यहां तक कि महत्वपूर्ण उद्योगों, उर्वरक, सीमेंट मेल की इकाइयों, बनस्पति, कपड़ा, कताई, जूट, टेलीफोन आदि में भी 50 प्रतिशत की विद्युत कटौती कर दी गई है। अनेक उद्योगों को सप्ताह में लगातार 3 दिन तक विद्युत उपलब्ध नहीं होगी। जब भी इस प्रकार की कटौतियां लागू होती हैं, सबसे अधिक बुरा प्रभाव

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**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.