

Shri RANGA : We are walking out in protest.

*Shri Ranga and some other Members then left the House.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jagjiwan Ram.

19 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE. RABI PRICE POLICY

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : The Government, after considering the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission on Price policy for Rabi Foodgrains for 1970-71 marketing season; and the views expressed by the Chief Ministers of Rabi States at a Conference held on 22nd March, 1970, have taken the following decisions for 1970-71 season :—

- (1) That all possible efforts will be made to achieve the procurement target of 3.7 million tonnes of wheat recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission;
- (2) That the procurement prices of wheat fixed for 1969-70 season will be maintained in 1970-71 also;
- (3) That the issue price of red (indigenous and Mexican) and imported varieties of wheat will be maintained at the existing level of Rs. 78 per quintal. The issue price of amber-coloured indigenous varieties will be Rs. 84 per quintal.
- (4) That the entire country (excepting the statutorily rationed areas of West Bengal and Maharashtra) will be made one zone for wheat.

All the decisions are being implemented immediately, except for the increase in the issue price of amber-coloured indigenous variety of wheat. The increase in the issue price of amber-coloured indigenous varieties of wheat will be given effect to from 1st May, 1970 or thereabout.

19.01 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE : CONTINUANCE OF THREE MINISTERS WHO HAVE CEASED TO BE MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : Sir, three Ministers, Dr. (Shrimati) Phulrenu Guha, Dr. S. Chandrasekhar and Shrimati Jahanara Jaipal Singh ceased to be members of the Rajya Sabha as from 3rd April, the period for which they had been elected having expired. The Prime Minister has asked them to continue in office for some more time. Accordingly they are continuing as Ministers.

Question has been raised whether it is constitutional. Clause (5) of Article 75 of the Constitution provides :

“A Minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of either House of Parliament shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister”

In the light of this provision in the Constitution, there is nothing unconstitutional or improper in these Ministers continuing in office. This opinion has been confirmed by the Attorney General also.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I have sent you a letter that I would like to ask a few questions from the hon. Minister on this point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, Please I would like to draw your attention to Rule 372 which bars any question at the time the Minister makes a statement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Sing—absent.

Mr. Narayana Rao.

#### MOTIONS REGARDING JOINT COMMITTEES

##### (i) OFFICE OF PROFIT

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO (Bobbili) I move :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one member of Rajya Sabha according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the joint committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused