

just now. I want to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the import lobby in his Ministry is deliberately re-organising the data in such a way that support prices are always depressed, forcing Government to import from abroad?

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** Any suggestion by the hon. Member about existence of any lobby is refuted; it is an absolutely wrong information which he has got. The Government did not import any foodgrains for five years from 1976 to 1981. Will the hon. Member consider what could have been the base for our fixing price internally when there was no import at all? Market prices international keep fluctuating. We cannot tie up our domestic prices with international prices for any commodity. We have to consider conditions within the country, and the cost of production here, not the cost of production outside. And now about the question of comparison between prices paid outside for imports: whenever they are essential, they are needed, we had to make some imports, because of drought conditions during the last few years. But this is not a normal feature now, because we consider ourselves more or less self-sufficient in foodgrains. It is only bad weather conditions that sometimes force us to import something to replenish our depleted stocks. Therefore, as has been clarified on many occasions earlier in the House, we cannot make international prices, which keep on fluctuating for any agricultural commodity, as the base for fixing our prices within India.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर : गेहूँ 300 रुपये  
क्विटल बिका रहा है।

**PROF. N. G. RANGA:** May I request the hon. Minister to refresh his memory? (Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Question Hour is over.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA:** Is it not a fact.... (Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prof. Ranga, the Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Policies regarding Rates and Distribution of essential items

\*205. **SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced new formula and policies for kerosene rates and distribution for weaker sections;

(b) whether in the case of wheat, rice ghee and other essential items also these formula and policies are going to be applied in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD):** (a) Yes, Sir. Details in this regard have already been conveyed to the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister of Energy on the 22nd February, 1983.

(b) and (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Houses.

#### Statement

Under the scheme of Public Distribution System, which is presently in operation throughout the country, certain key essential commodities such as wheat, rice, imported edible oils, sugar, soft coke and controlled cloth apart from kerosene are already being supplied to the consumers at fair and reasonable prices. These commodities are issued through fair-price shops and other retail outlets of the Public Distribution System. In the guidelines issued by the Central Government to the States, special stress is laid on meeting the needs of the weaker sections of the society under the Public Distribution System. The policies adopted by the Central Govt. in the case of issue of different commodities have to relate specifically to the production, procurement and other relevant factors concerned with the commodity. Wheat and rice are already being issued to the consumers at a subsidised price while in the case of sugar, a dual pricing policy has been in operation in the recent years. In edible oils too, the quantities issued under the public distri-

bution system are at prices which are generally much lower than those prevailing in the open market.

**Implementation of centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme**

\*206. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have been selected for implementing centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme;

(b) the amount spent thereon and the results achieved so far;

(c) whether Government intend to extend it to all the States in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is implemented in all the States.

(b) A total amount of about Rs. 347.79 crores was released and 34713 problem villages were provided drinking water facilities during the period 1977-78 to 1981-82 under the Centrally sponsored programme.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**Indo-Nigerian Agreement**

\*207. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Nigeria agreement has been signed in January, 1983 for development of agricultural farms in Nigeria; and

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Drought in Chotanagpur, Bihar**

\*208. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the current drought in Chotanagpur, Bihar the tribals of that area are virtually living on Mahua and leaves of trees and various types of roots;

(b) if so, measures taken by Government to save the Adivasis of Bihar from dying by starvation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rural development schemes run by Government for the tribals of Chotanagpur are under chaos due to mismanagement; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and step taken for immediate relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, this is not true. The Government of Bihar have reported that in view of the drought conditions in the entire plateau region of Chotanagpur large scale relief measures have been taken up which are as under:

(i) To ward off any apprehended starvation death, a reserve stock of three quintals of foodgrains have been placed at the disposal of every Gram Panchayat in the entire region;

(ii) 89,387 persons are being given free rations on Red cards;

(iii) Over one lakh people are being served by old age pension scheme;

(iv) Needy persons are provided with food at cheap price under Sasti Roti scheme; and about 1200 cheap bread shops have been opened in the area;

(v) About 7400 Ration Shops are functioning in the area to cater to the needs of rural population;