

Economic condition of Farmers

*228. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in case the labour of the farmers and other expenses incurred on cultivation are taken into account, farming proves to be an uneconomic occupation ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the economic condition of the farmers ; and

(c) what is the percentage of farmers living below the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT : (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) (a) and (b). While recommending the minimum support/procurement prices of commodities, the Agricultural Prices Commission, considers, among other things, the cost of production of agricultural crops. To ensure that prices received by the farmers are economic, the support/procurement prices are fixed in such a way as to provide for a reasonable margin above the cost of production. Under the Comprehensive Scheme for Estimating the Cost of Production of Principal Crops, the estimates of cost of production of crops already take into account all cash and kind expenses including wages of hired labour if any as also imputed values of family labour, interest on owned capital and imputed rental value of owned land.

Government is making sustained efforts to improve the economic conditions of the farmers by both helping them to increase farm production and productivity and minimising the cost of production through optimum and subsidised allocation of input resources. The various steps for

increasing production and productivity include expansion of irrigated area, greater use of chemical fertilizers, expansion in area under high yielding varieties, plant protection measures, adoption of package of practices, supply of mini-kits, raising of community nurseries, use of rhizobium culture in pulses, development and dissemination of technologies and inputs for dry land agriculture and adequate supply of power and diesel oil for timely operations. Marketing credit and price supports are also provided.

(c) No separate survey of the levels of living exclusively for the farmers has been carried out.

Non-Implementation of Shops and Establishment Act in F.C.I.

2203. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is not following Shops & Establishment Act, for the purpose of payment of over time allowance to its staff, and the F.C.I. Employees Union/Congress has been demanding implementation of this Act for the last five years ;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the Act and also the latest position in this regard ;

(c) whether the new transfer policy announced by Management of Food Corporation of India on 18 June, 1982 will involve/cause an expenditure of Rs. 7 crores, if implemented ; and

(d) if not, the exact expected annual expenditure along-with number of employees to be affected by this transfer policy (i) within districts ; (ii) within region ; (iii) within zone, along-with other relevant detailed information ?