

poor people at half the rates of the existing ones or at cheaper rates to ensure the availability thereof through the Public Distribution System throughout the country and also ensure the quality thereof:

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by when the scheme is likely to come into force and details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Central Govt. makes bulk allocation of rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oil and soft coke/CIL coke to States/UTs for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) at Central Issue Prices which are generally lower than the open market prices of these items. All efforts are made to ensure that only items conforming to prescribed quality standards are issued to States/UTs for the PDS. Internal distribution of PDS commodities within a State/UT is the responsibility of the concerned State Govt./UT Administration. There is no proposal to provide wheat, rice and other commodities at half the rates of the current Central Issue Prices of these commodities to any specific category of consumers. However a proposal to increase the special subsidy of foodgrains issued for distribution in the areas covered under the Revamped PDS (RPDS) is under examination. No time limit can be fixed for a decision in the matter. Some State Govts. such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Orissa have already implemented schemes for distribution of foodgrains to selected categories of consumers at a rates lower than the Central Issue Prices for these foodgrains. The additional subsidy on this account is being borne by the State Govts. themselves.

Higher Studies Abroad

2684. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who went abroad for study during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them who returned without completing their studies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide some incentives to those scientists and teachers who choose to remain in India despite many job opportunities abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) According to the information furnished by UGC, the number of persons who visited various countries under the Cultural Exchanges Programme during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Scholars
1992-93	166
1993-94	157
1994-95	105

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present no such proposal is under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Rural Orientation of Technical Education

2685. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate rural orientation in Technical Education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). Selected Polytechnics under the Central Scheme of "Community Polytechnics" are acting as focal points for promoting transfer of technology to rural sector. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), set up under the AICTE Act, 1987 for the coordinated development of technical education of the country, while considering approvals for new institutions gives preference to development to technical education in backward/rural areas of States lacking such facilities.