

[*Translation*]

Supply of Wheat to Agricultural Labourers in Lieu of Cash Under NREP

1440. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire wheat supplied to the State Governments by the Union Government at Rs. 1.50 per kg under the National Rural Employment Programme was distributed by the State Governments at the same rate among the agricultural labourers ;

(b) whether with a view to provide adequate relief to the agricultural labourers, Government will formulate a policy of supplying wheat to them at subsidised rates every year in lieu of cash under the above programme ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) :

(a) to (c) It was decided to distribute foodgrains under National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme at subsidised rates with effect from 16th January, 1984. The subsidised rate for wheat was fixed at Rs. 1.50 per kg. and for common, fine and superfine varieties of rice at Rs. 1.85, Rs. 1.95 and Rs. 2.10 per kg. respectively. As per this decision the entire quantity of wheat and rice supplied to the States under National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is being distributed at the prescribed rates. This scheme of providing foodgrains at subsidised rates under these programmes is continuing and therefore no new policy formulation on this point is needed for the present.

[*English*]

Revision of Rates of Royalty on Minerals

1441. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to revise the royalty rates on the various minerals ;

(b) whether there is a proposal to abolish taxes on minerals by the State Governments so as to bring about uniform prices of the minerals throughout the country ; and

(c) the royalty collected and paid to the various States during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has not received any information in this regard from the State Governments.

(c) The collection of royalty is done by the State Governments. The question of payment of royalty to the State Governments by the Central Government does not arise.

Clearance of World Bank Aided Gujarat Rural Road Project

1442. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GABKWAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rs. 190 crore World Bank aided Gujarat Rural Roads Project is pending for clearance ;

(b) if so, since how long it is pending ; and

(c) the hurdles in its clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The present total cost of the project is however, Rs. 204.7 crores.

(b) The Project was posed to the World Bank in 1983. Since then the State Government has conducted a number of economic evaluation studies for the various road works included in the project at the instance of the various World Bank Missions. Final clearance from World Bank for negotiations was received in September, 1985.