

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : What about the absent-mindedness of the Ministers ?

MR. SPEAKER : Also granted !

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE* CENTRAL ISSUE  
AND OPEN MARKET SALES  
PRICES OF WHEAT FOR  
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM AND OTHER  
SCHEMES

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, as the House is aware, the support price of wheat to be paid to the farmer in the coming rabi season was raised by the Government from Rs. 166 to Rs. 173 per quintal. This increase, which higher than that of the last three years, was widely welcomed.

The Central Government also fixes the price of wheat issued from the Central Pool to the State Governments for distribution under the public distribution system and other related schemes. Consequent upon the Government's decision to increase the support price of wheat by Rs. 7.00 per quintal, the Government have decided to refix the Central issue prices of wheat to absorb the increase in the support price and some related costs and to contain the food subsidy.

The revised Central issue prices of wheat will be as follows :

- (i) For the public distribution system, it will be Rs. 204 per quintal

instead of the existing Rs. 195 per quintal; and

- (ii) For the ITDP areas and tribal majority States, it will be Rs. 139 per quintal against the existing Rs. 130 per quintal and the consumer price will be Rs. 164 per quintal instead of Rs. 155 per quintal.

The price of wheat for open market sales will be Rs. 240 per quintal.

All these prices will be effective from 25th March, 1988.

12.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

- (i) Demand for Special Grants to the State of Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Sir, Goa has recently attained Statehood. It is now the endeavour of the State Government to see that Goa has a strong and viable economy. However, new-born States have their own Problems, and it has been the practice of the Central Government to aid and assist such States. This was done in the case of north-eastern States and it is still being done by including these States under special category.

People of Goa demanded Statehood in order to get the real power of governance. As a Union Territory, the entire responsibility of financing the Budget proposals rested with the Central Government. This position should not be entirely changed upon Goa's attainment of Statehood.

Therefore, Goa should be included in the list of special category State and special grants should be allotted to the State to help it to have self-sufficient economy.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (ii) Demand for setting up Training Centres for Handlooms Weavers in Gorakhpur and Varanasi

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to raise this

matter in the House under rule 377 with your permission that in our country handloom industry is centuries old and weavers of this country had attracted the world towards their handicrafts to such an extent that foreign traders used to vie with one another to carry muslin of Bengal of Union India to their countries. But every effort was made to destroy this art during foreign rule and consequently this industry could not be developed. The weavers employed in this industry could not affect change in their production with the times and as a result thereof weavers had to face poverty and hunger. The weavers could not derive full benefits of various step taken to encourage this industry in free India owing to lack of adequate resources. Whatever benefit of the present textile policy could reach the weavers has also not reached them owing to its faulty implementation. Besides, cost of cotton and cotton yarn has increased considerably owing to drought for the past several years and in the absence of timely training, sale of traditional items, at reasonable rates has also become difficult. Due to this, lakhs of looms are lying idle and crores of weavers have become jobless.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government that in order to develop the new technology in respect of handloom industry training centres should be established in Gorakhpur, Varanasi and other areas of Uttar Pradesh where there are handlooms large scale. Arrangements should be made purchase cotton yarn and for its storage so that the same could be made available to the weavers at cheap rates. Besides, this yarn production mills, plant for processing, printing and washing of handloom products should be installed at Gorakhpur and also in other regions of Uttar Pradesh. Necessary directions should be issued for popularising handloom products in foreign countries and for maximum use of the same by Government Undertakings.

(iii) Demand for More Sugar Mills in Moradabad, U.P.

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter Under Rule 377.

Sugarcane is produced in different parts of the country. Uttar Pradesh has been a pioneering State in the matter of sugarcane

production. Uttar Pradesh produces more sugarcane as compared to other states. The number of sugar mills is less keeping in view the production of sugarcane. The Western Uttar Pradesh is the largest sugarcane producing region of Uttar Pradesh but the number of sugar mills in Western Uttar Pradesh is far less than the requirement. My own constituency, Moradabad, which falls under Western Uttar Pradesh, produces huge quantity of sugarcane. The number of sugar mills is negligible keeping in view the production of sugarcane in Moradabad. Due to this the farmers do not get even the fixed support price of sugarcane.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Government that keeping in view the production of sugarcane in huge quantity in Moradabad, two-three sugar mills may please be set up there, so that the farmers may get atleast the fixed support price of sugarcane.

(iv) Demand for opening Navodaya Vidyalaya in Kanpur-Dehat

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

The Central Government has implemented the new education policy to deal with the problem of unemployment effectively and to make the education, employment oriented. The Government has taken an important decision under this new education policy to open an ideal school in every district of the country which is called Navodaya Vidyalaya. The purpose of opening of these Navodaya Vidyalaya is to provide facilities for all round development of intelligent children belonging to poor and middle class families. The Government has opened a Navodaya Vidyalaya in the Kanpur Metropolitan under this scheme. Some years ago Kanpur has been bifurcated into two districts and out of them the Kanpur-Dehat district is still very much backward and has not got adequate facilities of schools for the education of children. Besides primary education, the condition of high and higher secondary education is also very pitiable and there is only one college in such a big district like Kanpur-Dehat and proper arrangements for all facilities and teaching all subjects in that college do not exist.