

[English]

Support Price of Wheat to Farmers

*983. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that farmers are constrained to sell wheat in the markets at rates much below the support price fixed by Government; and

(b) if so, the directives issued by Union Government to various State Governments to ensure that farmers get the support price and they are not compelled to resort to distress sale of what?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No instance of sale of wheat of Fair Average Quality below the procurement prices has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Before commencement of the wheat marketing season, the Government made elaborate arrangements to organise price support operations through the Food Corporation of India and other agencies to ensure that market prices do not fall below the procurement levels. The removal of restrictions on movement of wheat, allowing purchase of wheat by traders and Roller Flour Mills in the open market and liberalisation of credit facilities to Roller Flour Mills are also intended to enable the farmers to realise better prices.

[Translation]

Setting up of Joint Venture by Alcatel

*984. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "Alcatel seeks fresh entry" appearing in "The Times of India" dated 24 April, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard to attempts by Alcatel to establish a Joint Venture in India for manufacturing its latest digital switching system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has not received any proposal for joint venture in India by Alcatel for manufacturing Digital Switching Systems. Therefore, the question or reaction of Government does not arise.

[English]

Upliftment of Andhra Pradesh Fishermen

*985. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released by Union Government for various programmes for upliftment of fishermen in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of the programmes, including subsidization programmes implemented in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the funds provided had been fully utilised during all these years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.