

Remunerative Prices to a Agriculturists

*9. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the agriculturists are not getting remunerative prices for their produce; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) No, Sir,

(b) The Government are aware that remunerative prices are necessary for stable income to the farmer, for raising his ability to invest in agriculture and to expand agricultural production. With this in view, the Government not only fix support/procurement prices of foodgrains and commercial crops but also have been raising these prices as and when necessary.

SHRI R. P. YADAV: The agriculturists in the country are the most exploited. They do not get remunerative prices. Because of this, the jute cultivation is going down day by day in this country. I am surprised to know that the hon. Minister, himself being an agriculturist, does not know that remunerative prices are not being given to farmers. In this context, may I know from the Minister, what are the specific considerations before the Government while fixing the price of an agricultural product?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The support prices are being fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission. The cost of inputs the cost of labour of the farmers, the market conditions, the shortages in that particular food-grain or agricultural product, all these factors are taken into account. The Government always tries to fix the

support price with a view to benefiting the farmer and to encourage him to produce more. I do not know how the hon. Member has said that I do not know that remunerative prices are not being paid to the farmer..

SHRI R. P. YADAV: This is your answer to part (a) of the question.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: You ask:

"whether the Government are aware that the agriculturists are not getting remunerative prices for their produce;"

I say, I am not aware.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question (How is over!

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Amendment of Aligarh Muslim University Act

*1. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act to give it the minority character as promised in the Election Manifesto of the ruling party; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Legislation for assuring the minority character of the Aligarh Muslim University is intended to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Issue of Postal Stamps bearing Picture of Tribal Folk Dances

*10. SHRI P. A. SANGAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue postal stamps bearing the pictures of tribal folk-dances; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to include therein GARO WANGALA DANCE from Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b). It is proposed to issue a set of 4 stamps on Tribes of India for which material is being collected. There is no proposal at present to issue stamps on tribal folk-dances.

Price of Petroleum Products

*11. SHRI C. R. MAHATA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fuel prices (petrol, kerosene, diesel etc.) have been enormously increased since August last; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and to what extent the increases were attributable to increase in the import price of crude?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A statement showing increases/decreases in the basic selling prices of major petroleum products effected from 17-8-1979/11-9-1979 is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) About two-thirds of our requirements of crude oil and finished petroleum products are met by imports. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced quarterly increases in crude prices for 1979, which were revised later and made very steep causing an additional burden of around Rs. 1100 crores per annum. An additional burden of around Rs. 50 crores was created by certain increases of domestic costs. Out of Rs. 1150 crores, Rs. 280 crores per annum was realised by reduction in excise duties and the balance of Rs. 870 crores was passed on to the consumers by way of price increases.

Statement

Increase /Decreases made in the basic selling prices of major refined petroleum products since August, 1979

Products	Selling unit	Increase w.c.f. 17-8-79 Rs.	Decrease w.c.f. 11-9-79 Rs.
1. Aviation Turbine Fuel	KL	740.00	
2. Motor Spirit 83 Oct.,one	KL	350.00	
3. High Speed Diesel Oil	KL	170.00	70.00
4. Superior Kerosene Oil	KL	170.00	70.00
5. Light Diesel Oil	KL	320.00	
6. Furnace Oil for Fertilizer use	KL	Nil	
7. Furnace Oil for non-fertilizer use	KL	320.00	
8. Bitumen St. Grade (Bulk)	MT	500.00	
9. Bitumen—Packed	MT	500.00	
10. Naphtha for non-fertilizer use	MT	1470.00	
11. Naphtha for fertilizer use	MT	Nil	
12. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) —Domestic	MT	333.33	
13. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Industrial	MT	333.33	
14. Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) for non-fertilizer use	MT	320.00	
15. Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) for fertilizer use	MT	Nil	