

minimum buffer norms is indicated below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Minimum Buffer norms on 1st July	Actual Stock (P)
1994	22.3	30.7
1995	22.3	35.6
1996	22.3	27.3

(P) : Provisional

(b) and (c) The Offtake of Wheat and Rice for Public Distribution System during the last three years is indicated below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Offtake (P)
1993-94	15.2
1994-95	13.3
1995-96	14.8

(P) : Provisional

The fluctuation in the offtake during last three years was mainly due to normal production of foodgrains and adequate local availability.

(d) Allotment and Offtake of Wheat and Rice to Kerala during last three years is as under:—

(In lakh Tonnes)

Year	Wheat (P)		Rice (P)	
	A	O	A	O
1993-94	3.50	3.15	18.25	15.78
1994-95	4.45	3.87	18.00	11.18
1995-96	5.85	5.57	18.00	11.70

(P) : Provisional A : Allotment O : Offtake
Levy sugar allotted during the last

three years to state of Kerala is as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Total Allocation
1993	1.54
1994	1.49
1995	1.51

Increasing the Prices of Rationed Commodities in Andhra Pradesh

2190. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA

NAHATA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh was forced to increase the price of rice from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.50 per Kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) names of other States where rice and wheat is supplied to the people through fair price shops at subsidised rates;

(d) whether these schemes had become popular in these States and now the people have opposed the move of increasing the prices;

(e) whether Central Government are considering to help these States in the form of subsidy so that these States continue these schemes; and

(f) if not, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the rate of rice being supplied, to white card holders has been increased from Rs. 5- to Rs. 3.50 per kg. w.e.f. 1.8.96.

(c) to (f) The Central Government

supplies foodgrains to States/UTs for issue through fair price shops at Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are subsidised. In RPDS areas the CIP is further subsidised and is Rs. 50 per quintal less than CIP for normal PDS areas, States/UTs have also been advised to add not more than 25 paise per kg. over and above CIP while fixing the end retail prices in RPDS areas. The States/UTs are free to further subsidise the prices on their own while fixing the end retail prices for fair price shops. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra extend further subsidy from their own funds. The Central Government does not give additional subsidy for such schemes of States/UTs.

Jobs for Educated Unemployed Youth in Uttar Pradesh

2191. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Graduate/Under graduate/Post-graduate unemployed youths registered with the employment exchanges in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government * have launched any speedy programme to provide jobs to all those unemployed persons during the period of 1996-97, 1997-98 and the number of youths employed during the 1995-96 till date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The number of educated (matric & above) job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the Live register of employment exchanges in Uttar Pradesh as at the end of 1991, 1992

and 1993 (latest available) is indicated below:

(In thousands)			
Year	Under Graduate (Matric & above but below Graduate)	Graduate	Post-Graduate
1991	1501.9	325.8	75.1
1992	1429.6	291.6	72.1
1993	1340.4	274.4	64.7

(c) and (d) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerated growth of productive employment opportunities in the country, based on faster growth of employment intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. In addition to various employment generation schemes, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana aimed at providing self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth, is being implemented in all the States.

The number of job-seekers placed in employment during the year 1995-96 by the employment exchanges in U.P. was 10 thousand.

Performance of Public Sector Enterprises

2192. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a well-deserved focus on the need to make the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) perform better;

(b) if so, step being taken by Government in this behalf;

(c) whether root cause of their problems lies in many unhealthy practices that affect their functioning and which go against public interest;

(d) if so, the details of the unhealthy practices alongwith the steps Government have taken to remove them;