

main in-put for stationery articles and the exercise books is the paper. According to information available, prices of white printing paper have increased by 3.5 per cent during the last six months.

(b) The supply of paper by the Hindustan Paper Corporation has been behind schedule due to certain difficulties faced by the Corporation such as spurt in the cost of production and natural calamities.

(c) and (d) The Government have in the meanwhile allowed some increase in the level of subsidy to meet the price increase. Department of Education has also issued instructions to the Corporation to put in all possible efforts to effect supplies as per allotments made by Department of Education.

Construction of Hostel for Orissa Students at Delhi

@3191-A. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested for allotment of a site for construction of a hostel building for Oriya students studying in different universities and colleges located at Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Gap between Urban and Rural Unemployment

@@3191-B SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

@Previously Unstarred Question 2683 transferred from the 31st August, 1990.

(a) whether the magnitude of poverty and unemployment in urban areas is smaller in comparison to that in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether a significant proportion of the urban unemployed who are educated, present a special set of problems;

(c) if so, what are the steps Government have taken so far to reduce the gap between the urban and rural unemployment; and

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) The magnitude of poverty, as reflected in the poverty ratio has been less in urban areas than in rural areas. However, the unemployment rate for urban areas has been higher than that for rural areas. Absolute magnitude of unemployment is, however, high in rural areas because of larger population. The Comparative incidence of poverty and unemployment for the year 1987-88 is given below:

Poverty and Unemployment in Rural and Urban Areas 1987-88(%)

Poverty Ratio		Unemployment Rate*	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
32.66	19.45	3.07	6.56

*Usual Principal Status

@@Previously unstarred Question 2778 transferred from the 31st August 1990.