

CASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT):

(a) to (c) In one of the news items telecast in both the national news bulletins at 8.40 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. on 17-7-1988, it was said that the duty on Petrol will go up from 3.5 per cent to 5 per cent and on Diesel it would be 5 per cent to boost the Central Fund for development of roads. However, the story did not say that the hike will affect the prices. The clarification from the Ministry of Surface Transport that there will be no increase in the selling price of either Petrol or Diesel was received in Doordarshan's News Room very late in the night and, therefore, was included in the morning news bulletins of Doordarshan the next day, i.e. 18-7-1988.

Loss incurred under the Crop Insurance Scheme

3142. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 159 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th August, 1988 and state the steps proposed to be taken by Government to reduce losses incurred under the Crop Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): The steps proposed to be taken to reduce losses under the Scheme include, reducing the sum insured from 150 per cent to 100 percent of the crop loan and further limiting it to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per farmer irrespective of total loan taken by a farmer.

3143. (Transferred to the 31st August, 1988).

New brands of bread in Delhi

3144. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some new brands of breads have

made their appearance in Delhi recently; and

(b) whether Government have examined the quality of such brands of breads and whether they are fit for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Supply of Wheat and Rice under NREP

3145. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat supplied, state-wise, on National Rural Employment Programme, year-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that decline in the supply of foodgrain has jeopardised the entire programme; and

(c) the man-days generated through this programme year-wise during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Statement indicating the quantities of wheat and rice released under National Rural Employment Programme State-wise and year-wise during the last three years is annexed. [See Appendix CXLVII. Annexure No. 122].

(b) Government does not agree with the view that decline in the supply of foodgrains has jeopardised the entire programme. There is no evidence to that effect in its possession.

(c) The employment generated under the programme during the last three years State-wise is given in the Statement annexed.