

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) FOR THE YEAR 1987-88 (NOVEMBER, 1987)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM): Now, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Jacob, to lay a statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, in behalf of the Minister of State in the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. B. K. Gadhvi, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 1987-88 (November, 1987).

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Minimum Support Price of Toria Crop of 1987-88 season

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM): Now, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri G. S. Dhillon, to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): Sir, as announced earlier on 12th instant, the Government have fixed the minimum support price of Toria crop of 1987-88 to be marketed in 1987-88 season itself at Rs. 400 per quintal. The price fixed for 1987-88 season is higher by Rs. 25 per quintal than that of the Inst year. The price has been fixed at a higher level to provide incentive to the producers to increase the production of oilseeds.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM): I think there is only one name here for seeking clarifications. Mr. Chaltevjee.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Please include my name also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM): Yes, Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee,

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what has been surprising me in all these announcements is the utter disregard for the agriculturists. I am saying this because, last year, the price was Rs. 400/- per quintal. This time the rise is by Rs. 25/- per quintal. This works out to a rise of slightly above 6 per cent. Now, is it the assumption of the hon. Minister that the rise in wholesale price index is 6 per cent this year? If it is not so, if the wholesale price index has risen further, if also the consumer price index, whether of the industrial workers or the agricultural labourers, has risen to two digits—and the anticipation is that it has risen to two digits—Then how can this modest rise act as an incentive for further production of oilseeds? I have on another occasion drawn the attention of the Minister to the fact that increasingly the terms of trade between agriculture and industry, between farm products and industrial products, are going against agricultural products. And we need a break-through in oilseeds. We are tremendously soft to capital in the urban areas, but we are so tardy in the case of agricultural products. Is it necessary? I will therefore request the hon. Minister to kindly reconsider and revise the figure at least by a rise of 10 per cent over the last year's price. The price, a consumer has to pay is not at all necessary, because it is the middleman who seizes the difference between the retail and wholesale price. So if that problem can be handled, a further rise for this product would be beneficial for growth in production. And if productivity also increases the consumers can benefit from that also, Thank you, Sir