

Shortage of controlled rate exercise books

2598. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of exercise books in the market at controlled rate;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the exercise books being sold in the open market costs two times more; and

(c) what are the reasons for non-availability of controlled rate exercise books?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No serious shortage of exercise books is reported by the State Governments, to whom concessional white printing paper is allotted.

(b) Exercise Books manufactured from the concessional paper are sold at rates fixed by the Government. Exercise Books manufactured out of paper sold in the open market cost more.

(c) Does not arise.

Prices of Text Books

2599. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep rise in the prices of text books of school children in the country, if so, what is the percentage increase in these prices in comparison to the prices in 1976;

(b) whether Government have abandoned the price control policy on text books generally prescribed for schools run by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the future policy in regard to preparations, publication, printing and

sale of text books for the school children of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Production and distribution of school textbooks and their pricing is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India arranges for supply of printing paper at concessional rates for textbooks. Control over the prices of textbooks are made by the State Governments themselves.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) produces textbooks for schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, Kendriya Vidyalayas and for those States and Union Territories who may place demand for them. The prices of NCERT textbooks are fixed according to an approved pricing formula which has not been changed since 1971. There has only been a marginal increase in the prices of some of the new NCERT textbooks printed after 1976.

As regards the textbooks published by the Central Board of Secondary Education, there has been no rise in the prices since 1976.

(c) Does not arise.

Issue and sale prices of commodities supplied through public Distribution System

2600. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present issue and sale prices of wheat, rice and sugar in the ration shops being supplied through the public distribution system;

(b) the date when the prices of the above commodities were increased; and

(c) what are the reasons for the increase in prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMALA KUMARI): (a) to (c) Consequent upon increase in the ex-factory prices of levy sugar notified in November, 1980, increase in transport/handling charges and introduction of the development cess, the consumer price of levy sugar was increased from Rs. 2.85 to Rs. 3.50 per kg. from 1-12-80. Similarly, consequent on the increase in the procurement prices of paddy, the central issue prices of rice supplied to State Gov-

ernments/U.T. Administrations for public distribution, were increased with effect from 1-1-81 to the extent indicated below: —

Common—from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 165/- per quintal.

Fine—from Rs. 162/- to Rs. 177/- per quintal.

Superfine—from Rs. 172/- to Rs. 192/- per quintal.

The central issue price of wheat fixed at Rs. 130/- per quintal with effect from 1-12-78 remains unrevised till date. The actual selling prices of wheat and rice in various States are indicated in the attached statement

Statement

Selling Prices of wheat and rice through ration/fair price shops under public distribution system

Sl. No.	Name of State	Selling prices in Rupees per quintal				As reported on	
		Rice		Wheat			
		Common	Fine	Superfine			
1	Andhra Pradesh	187	199	215	143	7-3-81	
2	Bihar	186.85	199.67	215.90	144.91	11-3-81	
3	Gujarat	187	..	..	135	11-3-81
4	Haryana	..	..	210 (Parmal)	137	6-3-81
5	Himachal Pradesh	Ranges between Rs. 180 to Rs. 677 per quintal				140+sales tax in Non- subsidised area 130/- in subsidised area.	10-3-81
6	Kerala	181 to 186	193 to 198	208 to 213	145 to 150	6-3-81	
7	Maharashtra	185	198	215	146	6-3-81	
8	Manipur	191.54	..	..	174 (Atta)	11-3-81
9	Meghalaya	176	..	..	162-165 (Atta)	12-3-81
10	Nagaland	185	..	..	..	10-3-81
11	Orissa	180	200	205	150	7-3-81	

Sl. No.	Name of State	Selling prices in Rupees per quintal				As reported on
		Rice			Wheat	
		Common	Fine	Superfine		
12	Punjab . . . . .	..	..	209	136.50	7-3-81
13	Rajasthan	182	195	212	141	9-3-81
14	Tamil Nadu	175	209	215	140	7-3-81
15	Uttar Pradesh	180	..	..	141	7-3-81
16	West Bengal	185	197	212	145	12-3-81
17	Sikkim	180	..	..	..	9-3-81
UNION TERRITORIES						
1	Arunachal Pradesh	185 to 200	..	..	155 to 165	6-3-81
2	Chandigarh . . . . .	..	..	209	137	6-3-81
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	205	..	..	..	6-3-81
4	Goa, Daman & Diu	180	193	210	145	13-3-81
5	Lakshadweep	186	199	216	150	7-3-81
6	Mizoram	200	..	..	161	12-3-81
7	Pondicherry	170	182	197	138	4-3-81
8	Delhi . . . . .	..	..	196	134	5-3-81

Commemorative Stamp on Rural Poor

2601. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever brought out a commemorative stamp on any rural poor who has given his life for the cause of the country including eradication of communalism and untouchability; and

(b) if not whether Government are proposing to bring out a symbolic community stamp for such category of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The Government have issued commemo-

orative stamps on such personalities from time to time.

(b) In view of the answer to (a) does not arise.

Techniques for optimum use of irrigation Water

2602. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to familiarise the farmers about the optimum use of the irrigation water;

(b) whether Government are aware of the various techniques and equipments evolved by voluntary agencies for minimising water wastage of irrigation water;

(c) if not, whether Government have made any survey in this respect;