

**Criticism of the selection of hockey team**

\*205. SHRI A. P. JANARDHANAM:

SHRI M. KADERSHAH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent selection of the hockey team to Perth has been criticised in the hockey circles on account of administrative and financial limitations placed on the players; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI DHANNA SINGH GULSHAN): (a) and (b). Government are not aware of any criticism about the selection of the Indian Hockey team to Perth on account of administrative or financial limitations placed on the players. Government are however, aware that there was criticism against the action of the Indian Hockey Federation in selecting the probables for the Perth Tournament before the National Championship were held at Hyderabad. Government did not support this action of the Indian Hockey Federation and this was conveyed to the Federation.

**Disparity between the procurement prices of Wheat and Rice**

\*206. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procurement price of wheat has been increased recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the rice producing States are also demanding an enhancement in the procurement price of rice in view of the increased cost of production;

(c) if so, what is Government's decision in the matter; and

(d) what are the difficulties in not increasing the price of rice along with that of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) The procurement price of wheat has been increased by Rs. 2/50 per quintal and fixed at Rs. 115/- per quintal for Rabi marketing season 1979-80 as against Rs. 112.50 per quintal fixed for Rabi marketing season 1978-79.

(b) In the course of discussions on price and procurement policy for Kharif cereals for 1978-79 marketing season, almost all the State Governments urged the need for increasing the procurement price of paddy on the ground that there is a steep rise in the cost of cultivation of paddy.

(C, Government have fixed the procurement price of coarse variety of paddy at Rs. 85/- per quintal for kharif marketing season 1978-79 as compared to Rs. 77/- per quintal fixed for kharif marketing season 1977-78, after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and the views of the State Governments. The procurement prices for other varieties of paddy have also been stepped up by Rs. 8/- per quintal over the procurement prices fixed for kharif marketing season 1977-78.

(d) As stated in reply to part (c), the procurement prices of various varieties of paddy have been increased by Rs. 8/- per quintal and the procurement prices of rice collected as levy on rice millers/dealers have also been increased correspondingly. The increase in the procurement price