

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) This Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended a support price of Rs. 245 per quintal for mustard of fair average quality for the 1978-79 crop (to be marketed in 1979-80) as compared with Rs. 225 per quintal fixed for 1977-78 crop. The recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

(b) It is hoped the higher price will motivate the farmers to step up production of mustard.

(c) Support price of jute has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 150 per quintal for W-5 variety in Assam for 1978-79. A.P.C. while making its recommendations on minimum support price takes into account various relevant factors such as cost of production, prices of inputs, prices of competing crops and ruling market prices.

#### Increase in licence fee of quarters allotted to Central Government employees

\*410. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA:

SHRI PRABHU SINGH:

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 654 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th February, 1979 and state:

(a) how many times during the last three years, the licence fee of the quarters allotted to Central Government servants has been increased and what is the amount of increase effected in each type; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to provide relief to the low paid categories of the Central Government employees in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b) Licence fee has been increased only once in last three years i.e. from 1st April, 1978. The increase is 8 per cent of the then existing rate of licence fee in B, C and D (types II to IV residences), 9 per cent in E, E1, E2 and E3 (types V to VIII residences) and 11 per cent in huttid accommodation. There is, however, increase as also decrease in certain type 'A' (type I) residences which are allotted to low paid employees. Such of the employees whose emoluments are less than Rs. 300/- p.m. recovery is made from them either at 7½ per cent of their emoluments or the standard licence fee whichever is less. In other cases, recovery is made @ 10 per cent of emoluments or standard licence fee whichever is less. There is no proposal at the moment to give any further relief.

#### Import of technology to improve the telephone system in the country

\*415. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plans to go in for major imports of technology as well as equipment during the current Plan period with a view to improving the telephone system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Major imports of telecommunication equipment are planned mainly to cover gaps between Sixth Plan requirements and