

of repatriates from Ceylon, as required by them. Besides, a sum of Rs. 97.42 lakhs has been released to the Tamil Nadu, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh Governments for composite schemes for repatriates from Burma and Ceylon and East Pakistan migrants.

(b) A provision of Rs. 120.23 lakhs has been included in the Budget Estimates 1969-70 for rehabilitation of Ceylon repatriates. It is not possible at this stage to give a realistic estimate of the expenditure to be incurred in subsequent years.

Most of the repatriates who have come so far are reported by the State Governments to have gone to the places of their origin or other destinations direct and appear to have resettled on their own. According to the information furnished by the State Governments, 262 repatriates from Ceylon have received rehabilitation assistance from the Government of Tamil Nadu and 10 from Kerala Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. Release is made according to the schemes prepared by the State Governments and approved by the Government of India. In case of pattern schemes, funds are released on the basis of the requirements intimated by the State Governments within the ceilings laid down in the pattern schemes.

#### INCREASE IN PRICE OF WHEAT AND WHEAT PRODUCTS

\*623. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the prices of wheat and wheat products from March, 1969;

(b) if so, the extent of the proposed rise in prices;

(c) the number of times during the past four years Government have increased wheat prices; and

(d) what are the reasons for increasing the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue prices of wheat supplied from Central stocks were revised five times during the years 1965 to 1968.

(d) The reasons for revising the issue prices of wheat have mainly been to reduce gradually the burden of subsidy on the National Exchequer which was involved in the subsidised distribution of wheat from the Central stocks. It was also necessitated at certain occasions to narrow down the gap between the open market prices of wheat and the sale price of wheat at Fair Price Shops.

#### PRICE OF COARSE RICE SUPPLIED TO KERALA

\*624. SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA): Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coarse rice procured from Andhra at the rate of 72 Rupees per quintal is being supplied to Kerala at the rate of 96 Rupees per quintal; and

(b) if so, whether it is to find funds to procure fine and superfine rice from the North Indian states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The procurement price of coarse rice in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 72.69 per quintal exclusive of gunny. The