

KMS 2005-06. All bills presented to the Government of India (GoI) regarding food component of NFWP/ Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) were paid by the Ministry of Rural Development. As of now there are no bills in the GoI which remains to be paid.

**Freight and labour charges at ICP, Attari**

2220. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether labour charges and freight charges at Integrated Check Post (ICP), Attari are much higher than at any other land port in the region like Jalandhar, Ludhiana etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons to impose labour charges when no labour work is involved and all the process is automated; and

(c) whether trucks coming at ICP, Attari at 9.00 A.M. and at 7.00 P.M. are charged for full day, if so, the reasons for warehousing charges not being on clock cycle basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) There is no other land port in Punjab like Integrated Check Post (ICP), Attari. There are Inland Container Depots (ICDs) in Jalandhar and Ludhiana which also handle Cargo for export/import. However, the nature of work at ICP and at ICDs are different. The ICDs handle containerized cargo, which necessarily requires mechanisation. But, ICP, Attari deals with mainly loose cargo like gypsum and also cargo in bags, which involves manual labour. Therefore, the labour charges and freight charges at ICP, Attari cannot be compared with that of ICDs.

(b) Labour work is involved in most of the processes except in few cases which account for a very small volume of the total work involved. The labour charges for such activities have been worked out after a joint meeting between labour pradhans, trade representatives and all other stake holders in the presence of Customs, Border Security Force and local administrators.

(c) The storage charges are on full day basis since the insurance charges payable on the commodities are on full day basis. However, free period of two days is given for loose cargo like gypsum which is a major import commodity. The storage charges for the first two days are kept very nominal for other commodities, for example in case of cement it is only 20 paise per bag per day.