

(27) *Electrical installations damaged :*

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| (a) 220 KV DC Line washed away] | 12 towers have been completely damaged |
| (b) 33 KV Lines (KMs) damaged | 85 KMs |
| (c) 11 KV Lines. | 1100 KMs |
| (d) L.T. Line | 500 KMs |
| (28) No. of Power-looms damaged | 51 |
| (29) No. of small scale Units damaged] | 40 |
| (30) <i>Orissa Road Transport Properties damaged</i> | |
| (i) No. of Public service vehicles damaged | 16 Nos. |
| (ii) Gopalpur Port | Damage to barrage, sand pump station, trestle damage, silting of navigational channel etc |
| (31) Forest Department roads damaged | 76 KMs. |

Supply of essential items at uniform rate throughout the country

185. PROF SOURENDRA BHAT-TACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state-

(a) whether Government are aware of very high prices of essential commodities and consequent hardship to the general public;

(b) whether Government would undertake to supply such commodities at fixed prices within the reach of the common man all over the country through public distribution system and at subsidised rates to the people below poverty line; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to reduce the high prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been some increase in the price of some essential commodities.

(b) The Central Government procures and supplies key essential commodities viz rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oils, soft coke and

kerosene to State Governments/UT Administration for distribution through Public Distribution System. Some State Governments have included additional items such as pulses, tea, salt, soap matches, coarse grain etc. for distribution through fair price shops

A scheme for supply of specially subsidised wheat and rice to the people in the ITDP areas is being implemented.

(c) Apart from the measures on the broad macro-economic front such as efforts to reduce growth in money supply and fiscal discipline, specific measures have been taken by the Government in respect of particular essential commodities under pressure. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of the prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports, subject to overall constraints of foreign exchange.