

(b) if so, the details of such routes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it is the policy of the Railways to consider closure of those uneconomic Branch lines where alternative modes of transport facilities exist.

Losses due to Flood

578. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS
GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the monsoon fury has claimed more than 100 lives in the western and northern parts of the country due to heavy floods;

(b) if so, the extent of losses caused to human lives, crops, houses and properties in the flood affected areas; State-wise and the details of relief operation being undertaken and Central assistance given to the concerned States in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for providing succour to the nearest kith and kin of the victims of the fury of the floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) Eleven States and one Union Territory have so far reported damage due to heavy rains, floods, landslides etc. during current south-west monsoon. The extent of damage to life and property etc. as reported by the affected States/Union Territory on 7.8.1990 is given at Annexure. [See Appendix CLV, Annexure No.20]

Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief

Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, 75 percent of which is to be contributed by Central Government in four quarterly instalments as a non-plan grant and the balance 25 percent is to be arranged by the State Government from its own resources. A State Level Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary of the State Government has been empowered to decide on all matters connected with the relief expenditure including the norms on which the relief should be provided. Following the constitution of the CRF, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to undertake all relief measures and incur necessary expenditure in the wake of natural calamities.

All affected State Governments are taking necessary relief measures like opening of relief camps and health centres, deployment of boats for evacuation of the marooned people to the safer places, distribution of food packets and other essential commodities and an ex-gratia payment to the next kith and kin of the deceased.

A Statement showing the amount allocated to the various States under the CRF for 1990-91 and the amount released so far towards Centre's contribution to CRF is at Annexure. [See Appendix CLV, Annexure No.21]

579. [Transferred to 27th August, 1990]

Train accident near Mangra Railway Station

580. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train rammed into the Gomoh-Gorhwa Chopan passenger train near Mangra Railway Station in the month of June, 1990;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed, and

(c) whether any inquiry has been set-up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In this accident, 22 persons lost their lives and 62 sustained injuries.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle.

Increase in the wholesale prices of commodities

581. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to arrest the spiralling rise in prices of all commodities; and

(b) what is the percentage increase of wholesale prices from March, 1988 to March, 1989 and from March, 1989 to March, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices particularly of the essential commodities. Both long-term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government include measures on broad macro-economic front such as reduction in money supply and fiscal discipline and specific measures to check rise in prices of selected essential commodities. The main steps that have been taken are incentives to increase the production of essential commodities (e.g. sugar); effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System; monitoring of prices and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) wherever necessary subject to

over all consideration of foreign exchange constraints.

(b) A Statement showing the percentage variation in the prices of essential commodities during the period March, 1988 to March, 1989 and March, 1989 to March, 1990 is given in Statement.

Statement

Percentage variation in the prices of Essential Commodities (March, 1988 to March, 1989 and March, 1989 to March, 1990.)

Commodity	Percentage Variation	
	March, 90 March, 89	March, 89 March, 88
1	2	3
Rice	+1.3	+6.8
Wheat	-15.9	+11.4
Jowar	-16.2	+42.4
Bajra	+1.7	-20.2
Gram	-8.6	+55.3
Arhar	+27.3	-18.3
Moong	+0.3	+13.4
Masur	-0.6	+32.9
Urad	+16.5	+19.8
Potatoes	+10.9	+10.6
Onions	-12.3	-19.3
Milk	+3.6	+14.2
Fish	+10.1	+3.0
Mutton	+6.1	+7.7
Chillies (Dry)	-47.3	+56.0
Tea	+40.3	+32.6
Kerosene	Steady	Steady
Atta	-0.8	+26.8
Sugar	+10.4	+5.6
Gur	+14.8	+21.0
Salt	+18.2	+22.4
Vanaspati	+13.5	+1.6
Gingelly oil	+40.5	-16.9
Mustard oil	+14.8	-17.3
Coconut oil	-7.0	-15.6
Groundnut oil	+35.4	-18.9
Cottoncloth (Mills)	+14.6	+4.1