

duction of foodgrains during 1987-88 and 1988-89 were 140.35 and 170.25 million tonnes respectively.

The final estimates of production of foodgrains for 1989-90 have not yet become due from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the production of total foodgrains is expected to be in the range of 170-173 million tonnes.

(b) The steps being taken by Government to maintain appreciable growth rate of foodgrains production include:

- (i) Expansion of area under high yielding varieties/hybrids of rice, wheat, maize, jowar and bajra;
- (ii) Minikit Programme of rice, wheat, maize and millets, including Propagation of new technology;
- (iii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) of rice (including SRPP) wheat, maize, arhar and gram;
- (iv) National Pulses Development Programme;
- (v) Shallow Tubewells and Dugwells Programme in SFPP States under Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers;
- (vi) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture.

Unmanned gates near Tippiampatty and Nattarpatty

442. SHRI S. K. T. RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to comply with the long standing demand of the villagers of Nattarpatty and its surroundings to provide manual operated or mechanical operated

gates in place of existing unmanned gates near Tippiampatty and Nattarpatty villages and in between Pavurchuram and Mattur railway stations lying in Tirunelvely-Tenkasi main line in Southern Railway; so that town-bus operations could link the two important villages, Tippiampatty and Nattarpatty directly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Manning of the existing unmanned level crossing No. 80 at Km.88/6-7 between Pavurchuram and Mattur stations has been included in the Railways Works Programme of 1990-91.

Procurement and distribution of Rice, Wheat and Palm oil

443. SHRI S. K. T. RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the figures relating to States contribution to the Central Pool, in the procurement of rice, wheat and palm oil for the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90, State-wise; and

(b) the annual figures for the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 of distribution of rice, wheat and palm oil separately to the States State-wise from the Central Pool?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) Statements showing the State-wise quantity of rice and wheat procured and contributed to the Central Pool for the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 are attached. Palm oil is not a indigenous product and not procured for Central Pool from States/UTs. [Annexures. (See Appendix CLIII, Answers Nos. 12 and 13).