

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 Tippanampatty and Nattarpatty

442. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : 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 Tippanampatty 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, Tippanampatty 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. RAMACHANDRAN : 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 MIRDEHA) : (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).

(b) Statements for rice, wheat and palm oil are attached (Annexure III-V). (See Appendix OLIII, Annexure Nos. 14, 15 and 16).

Construction of over-bridges on Gulab Bag Railway Crossing at Khagrai, Bihar

444. SHRI AHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several organisations from Purnia, Bihar have demanded construction of over-bridges on the Gulab Bag Railway Crossing at Khagrai-Kishanganj, Bihar; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered their demands?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received in this regard.

(b) The Railways can take action, only after the State Government sponsors firm proposals for construction of road overbridges at Gulab Bagh Railway Crossing at Purnia and Khagra Gate near Kishanganj, duly consenting to bear/share the cost as per rules.

Conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Purnia, Bihar

445. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert all metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in all sectors of railway lines of Purnia District, of Bihar (Kathar-Jogwani, Purnia-Sarhara), and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Installation of statues of great leaders in the capital

446. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an urgent need to instal a statue of the Late Tamilnadu Chief Minister Dr. M. G. Ramachandran in the Capital; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to instal statues of the great leaders like late Shri Annadurai and Dr. M. G. Ramachandran?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Proposals for installation of statues in the capital are normally initiated by organisations interested in the matter and are ready to bear the cost of work. The organisation is also required to obtain clearance from the local bodies and other appropriate authorities.

Regularisation of strike period of Junior Engineers of Central Public Works Department

447. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN
GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to remove discrimination in the matter of regularisation of strike period of Junior Engineers of Central