

Indo-Argentina talks on shipping and transport

1264. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Argentina talks were held in the first week of February, 1983 on matters of shipping and transport; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussion held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) Indo-Argentina talks on shipping matters were held on 11-2-1983.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India and the Elma Shipping Lines of Argentina have been asked to work out concrete proposals for introducing better shipping service between the two countries taking into account the commercial considerations. As regards ship-building, it was noticed that the development of Argentina and India in this regard was parallel and there was not much scope for commercial exchanges. No discussion took place on Transport.

Foodgrains Prices

1265. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of wheat, rice, sugar, bajra, gram etc. procured by Government during the last three years;

(b) what prices have been recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission and those declared by Government, for these commodities, during the last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for increasing the prices of these commodities every year; and

(d) whether Government have a proposal for keeping the prices of these commodities stable this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The quantities of wheat, rice, bajra and gram procured by the Government during the last three years and also during the current year are as under;

(Figures in '000' tonnes)

Marketing season	Wheat	Rice	Bajra	Gram
1979-80	8000	3851
1980-81	3860	5609	0.5	..
1981-82	6596	7271
1982-83	7715	5766
	(As on 26.2.83)	(As on 1.3.83)		

As regards sugar, the Government procures 65 percent of the total production of the factories as levy at controlled prices and the balance is allowed to be sold for freesale in the open market. The total production of sugar during the sugar years (October—September) 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 was 38.59 lakh tonnes, 51.48 lakh tonnes and 84.98 lakh tonnes respectively. The sugar production in

1982-83 (upto 15-2-1983) is 40.33 lakh tonnes.

(b) The Agricultural Prices Commission recommends prices for paddy and sugarcane and not for rice and sugar. The prices recommended by the Commission and those fixed by the Government for paddy, wheat, bajra, gram, sugarcane in the last three years (Marketing season) are indicated below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	1980-81		1981-82		1982-83	
	As recommended by APC	As announced by the Govt.	As recommended by APC	As announced by the Govt.	As recommended by APC	As announced by the Govt.
Paddy	100	105	115	115	122	122
Wheat	117	117	127	130	142	142
Bajra	97.50	105	116	116	118	118
Gram	145	145	165	NA	227	NA
Sugarcane*	13	13	15	13	13.50 + 2.0 Transport cost	13

NA—Not Announced.

*—Linked to a recovery of 8.5 percent 0.1 percent increase in the basic recovery.

(c) The prices are increased in the light of the recommendations made by the APC which, *inter-alia*, takes into account the changes in the cost of production and other relevant factors, as also the views expressed by the concerned Ministries and State Governments.

(d) No, Sir.

Indians in Kenya

1266. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the coup d'etat in Kenya persons of Indian origin and Indian nationals were a target of mass violence;

(b) the number of Indians killed or beaten the number of the homes and shops looted;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were cases of ill-treatment/rape of Indian women; and

(d) the action taken by the Government of India to protect the life, property and honour of Indians in Kenya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. RAHIM): (a) to (c) If may be recalled that some groups of local Africans looted the establishments of many Asians taking advantage of the civil commotion which followed the abortive coup attempt in Kenya on August 1, 1982. There had also been some lootings of the houses of Indian nationals. No Indian nationals were reported killed during the abortive coup. No case has come to the notice of the Government where any Indian women were molested, but there were some cases involving women of Indian origin.

(d) The Government of India has directed the High Commissioner in Nairobi who is in constant touch with the Indian residents in Kenya to render all necessary help possible.