

release of wagons to coal contractors on an out-of-turn basis as reported in "SUNDAY" in its issue of 20th December, 1981; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons for issuing the orders for the release of wagons on an out-of-turn basis as mentioned above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Often requests are received from industries, which are duly sponsored by various sponsoring authorities, for immediate allotment of wagons for movement of coal to relieve distress and avoid closure of their factories. To avoid stoppage of production and retrenchment of labour, out-of-turn allotments, wherever considered appropriate are made to ameliorate the distress of the consumers.

Discussion on sharing of Ganga Water between India and Bangladesh

388. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were recently held on the sharing of Ganga Waters between India and Bangladesh; and

(b). if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Agreement of the 5th November, 1977 on sharing of the Ganga water, at Farakka and on augmenting its flows is in force for 5 years. The sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka is being imple-

mented in conformity with the provisions of the Agreement.

Bringing down of prices of essential commodities under 20-Point Programme

389. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROTRAOJI DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given priority to the need for bringing down and curbing the prices of essential commodities under the '20-Point Programme' recently enunciated by the Prime Minister; and

(b) what steps are contemplated for achieving this object?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) and (b) The availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices is a major objective of the Government policy. This is to be achieved through vigorous implementation of the action items, in the new 20-Point Programme, relating to production, distribution and regulation of essential commodities.

Central Aid to Cyclone Hit States

390. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central aid, including that from the Prime Ministers' Relief Fund, given to different cyclone hit States for relief of victims of cyclones during the current year;

(b) the extent to which it has been utilised by each State and the number of families which have benefited thereby; and