

materials have shown considerable increase which might justify grant of additional funds to the Northern Railway for procurement of stores. An exercise in this direction is being made in the Ministry on all Railways basis. Till funds become available, Northern Railway should have exercised adequate control on their commitments as not to exhaust sanctioned grant during the first half of the year. The Railway Administration have been asked to review all the commitments and adjust their future purchase so as not to thrust the sanctioned budget grant.

The question of unnecessary and unauthorized purchases by the Railways does not arise as adequate machinery already exists to guard against such purchases on the Railways.

Allocation of Levy Sugar to West Bengal

391. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal is being allotted 22000 MT levy sugar per month as against its monthly requirement of 4000 MT;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the arrival in the State have consistently fallen short of allocation and in 1980 the total arrivals were 27646 MT against total allocation of 272299 MT, leaving a huge backlog of 64653;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to improve both the allocation and despatch to meet the demand of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) With the coming into operation of partial control on sugar with effect from 17-12-1979, the monthly State-

wise levy sugar quotas as obtaining during previous partial control period have been revived and accordingly, West Bengal Government is getting a monthly levy sugar quota of 21,994 tonnes for distribution through fair price shops (in addition, small quantities for Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force etc. are also being allotted). West Bengal Government had asked for increase in the monthly quota to 40,000 tonnes but due to tight availability of levy sugar it has not been possible to make any increase in the quota.

(b) to (d) For the year 1980 i.e. from January to December, 1980 the total levy sugar allotted to West Bengal was 2,64,190 tonnes and as against this the arrivals in the State were 2,07,225 tonnes. Besides, Food Corporation of India was also having 17,521 tonnes of sugar in its godowns as on 31-12-1980. The shortfall in arrivals in some of the months was due to the fact that Food Corporation of India is required to move levy sugar to various destinations in West Bengal from the far off surplus State of Maharashtra and therefore, movement difficulties are encountered on certain occasions due to constraint in the availability of adequate number of wagons. The position in this regard has considerably improved in the last few months. In the last three months from August to October, 1981 the total arrivals in the State were 68,122 tonnes as against levy sugar allocation of about 66,058 tonnes in the said months.

Foodgrains procurement Machinery

392. SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER:

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to gear up the procurement machinery and monitor the procurement of foodgrains; and

(b) what is the gap between the target of procurement and actual procurements during the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Arrangements (including credit facilities and supply of gunnies) have been made by Food Corporation of India and State Governments in the important wheat and rice producing States during the current year for implementing the price support policy. Extensive network of purchase centres were opened by all procurement agencies well in advance. Information is being monitored, as in previous years, from various State Governments/Food Corporation of India on a daily basis.

(b) Against the target of 95 lakh tonnes, 65.80 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured so far. As regards rice no target, as such, has been fixed. The total rice procurement (including expected levy from mills) is 36.06 lakh tonnes as on 3-11-1980.

Operation of Mechanical Threshers

393. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEV DHABE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the provisions made for the security of persons operating Mechanical Threshers in agriculture operations;

(b) the number of accidents which occurred in the last one year in these operations, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure safety of such persons and for prosecutions of breach of Safety Regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) Statement is enclosed. (Annexure-I).

(b) The information is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Statement is enclosed. (Annexure-II).

Annexure-I

The Government have taken the following important steps to ensure safe operations of Mechanical Threshers in agriculture operation:—

(i) Wheat growing States have been requested to launch campaigns before every harvesting season to organise training camps and use extension and audio-visual media for educating farmers and users in the safe use of threshers

(ii) States have been advised to consider legislative measures for making it compulsory for the manufacturers, sellers and users of threshers to install safety devices in threshers.

(iii) Safety feeding devices have been designed and developed and Indian Standards Institution has formulated relevant Indian Standards. Information on Standard designs of safety devices has been furnished to the manufacturers.

(iv) Cautionary posters and extension bulletins have been prepared and distributed to the States besides posters and bulletins being produced by the State Governments themselves also in regional languages.

(v) Instructional film on safe use of threshers has been produced by the Central Government and distributed to the States.

Annexure-II

In order to ensure safety to the victims of threshers accidents, the Gov-