

supply the vaccine to people at least once a week at such centres (depots) Wherever I visited these centres were few and far the distance between two centres being at least 70 to 90 Kms and there was no adequate supply of medicines too. Consequently, the people have to face a lot of inconvenience when they are bitten by stray dogs. I am speaking about Bihar.

MR SPEAKER Only two questions have been asked. Please be brief and ask them quickly.

[*English*]

SHRI M L FOTEDAR I agree with the hon member that he himself had been the Director of the medical health services in one of the important states of the country. I would like to inform him that it is not the function of the Health Department to kill the dogs but it is the function of the municipality and the panchayats. So far as Health department is concerned it is concerned with human beings and we are providing the necessary anti rabies vaccines in all the hospitals throughout the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV Mr speaker, sir, I want to ask a very small question. The hon minister has said just now that a new vaccine is being developed and it may take one or two years before it is launched. Thereafter, as Dr Kanaujia has asked

MR SPEAKER You should not go through questions of other members please ask your own question.

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV Sir, I am concluding. I am not in the habit of speaking too much when a stray dog bites a man and in case he fails to get anti rabies vaccine he falls ill. The doctors cannot save him if he has not got himself vaccinated in time. He is sure to die., you are the minister of Health and Family welfare and therefore I want to know from you whether the government is taking any action in this field

so that human lives can be saved.

SHRI M L FOTEDAR I would like to inform the hon Member that in every developed country this new vaccine is being used. So far as the cases of a stray dog bite are concerned, it is not the duty of the Health Department to trace him and attend to him but it is for the patient to go to a hospital and get treatment. Even then if the hon member has a specific complaint, I will certainly look into the matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL This is a very serious issue. In my constituency rabid and stray dogs have bitten 22 children during the last 15 days. (*Interruption*)

MR SPEAKER Half an hour has been spent on two questions. This question is not related to one constituency, but to the supply of medicines and rabies vaccine. Please go through the question. Please sit down. Shri Nitish Kumar.

(*Interruptions*)

Wheat from Canada

*493 SHRI NITISH KUMAR
DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of wheat so far received from Canada as per the agreement signed in June 1992,

(b) the phased programme for receiving the remaining quantity of imported wheat, and

(c) the approximate proposed marketable rate for its supply under the Public Distribution System?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No quantity of wheat from Canada has been received at Indian Ports so far. However, 5 vessels carrying 1.84 lac tonnes of wheat have sailed and are on the high seas and the first vessel is expected to arrive here in the last week of August, 1992.

(b) According to the tentative plan of Food Corporation of India, the imported wheat will be received in India during August to November, 1992

(c) Imported wheat as well as indigenous wheat are issued at the same central issue prices by FCI (Ex-FCI's godowns) to the States and Union Territories for the Public distribution System. The current central issue price of wheat is Rs 280/- per quintal for PDC and Rs 230/- per quintal for areas covered under the revamped PDS

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to say that in the month of April, the then Minister of Commerce Shri P. Chidambaram had said that if the procurement this year is more than 85 lakh tonnes there would be no need to import wheat. Last year the total procurement was 111 lakh tonnes. Mr Speaker, Sir the procurement was less because the procurement price was less the procurement has been compelled to import what from abroad

According to a report published in newspaper Mr Speaker Sir, when the global tender was invited for import of wheat the price of wheat in the international market was between Rs 351 per quintal to Rs. 453 per quintal, but according to the recent reports in newspaper, wheat is being imported from Canada at the rate of Rs 526 per quintal. Mr Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government that when the global tender was invited what was the price of wheat at that time and now at what price is it being imported from Canada?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED (Hanamkonda) Sir, I would like to reply in

detail. Procurement was less in 1992-93 and the two preceding years. This year, the procurement was 6.37 million tonnes less as compared to last year. It was 3.3 million tonnes less compared to the previous year. As far as the question of price was concerned, as compared to last year this year the price has been increased. Bonus has also been given and due to this, in comparison with last year, F.C.I. had to give Rs 55 per quintal more. As far as the matter of import price is concerned, I would like to inform that in the month of January a decision was taken to import wheat. After that tenders were invited. There were many tenders, which did not fulfill one condition on the tender and were not worth consideration.

Secondly it is not correct that the price of the kind of wheat which is being distributed through P.D.S. and the price which is being paid for it is not less. This is correct that certain firms had quoted 130 and 131 dollars for the wheat to be imported but we do not generally supply that through P.D.S. This is soft wheat, which only bought for milling purpose. The price we have paid is most competitive.

The wheat which is being distributed through P.D.S. and is acceptable was at the rate of 147.78 dollars. It is most competitive price. Secondly, this contract has not been made with any private party. This contract has been made with the Canadian Wheat Board of the Government of Canada.

It is correct that utmost efforts were made to procure American wheat at the least possible price, and a team went to America from here, with this intention that under the export enhancement programme if we get the subsidy, the price of wheat to be imported would be reduced, but the American Government did not agree to it. Even otherwise, the quotation was too much and that is why by negotiation we brought wheat from the Canadian Wheat Board, at the rate of 147.78 dollars.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR Mr Speaker, Sir, just now, while giving the reply the hon. minister said that we are giving Rs. 50 to Rs

55 more per quintal as compared to last year. The price of manure has increased, the price of inputs has increased, i.e. the cost of production of farmers has increased but in proportion to that no increase has been made in the procurement price and the support price. The result was that the farmers burnt wheat in the Boat club in Delhi while demanding more prices. This vary Government in the beginning of this year, exported 8 lakh tonnes of wheat and after that it was imported. God knows what was behind this? I do not know whether kick back was received or not. That is a separate matter. I had asked in part 'C' of the question.

[English]

The approximate proposed marketable rate for its supply under the Public Distribution System*.

[Translation]

The reply is correct that imported wheat and indigenous wheat are issued at the same central issue price. We would like to know that when the issue price is fixed, how much subsidy will have to be granted to supply ten lakh tonnes of wheat through the PDS.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: First I would like to reply to your concluding point...(Interruptions).... The decision to export was taken by the Government in which of Shri Nitish Kumar was a Minister. In August 1990., the decision to export 10 Lakh metric tonnes was taken to meet the requirement of foreign exchange. But that year, only 2 lakh tonnes were exported. After that, in April 1991, a decision was again taken to export 10 lakh metric tonnes of wheat. Out of that, 6.97 lakh metric tonnes were exported. After that, in September, 1991 this Government reviewed the entire gamut of availability of wheat. As a result the procurement declined, permission which was earlier given for 10 lakh tonnes, was reduced to eighth lakh tonnes. After that a decision was taken in January which stipulated...that no export should be allowed.

[Translation]

I would like to clarify that this export contract has not been awarded to any private party

[English]

Entire export has been done by STC and MPMC.

[Translation]

Both of these are Government organisations. They have exported wheat.

Secondly you have asked how much subsidy is involved in this if the wheat is distributed through P.D.S. The hon. member might be awarded that the subsidy provided in budget this year, is Rs. 2500 crores and Rs. 250 crores is for revamping . So we have a subsidy of Rs. 2750 crores. If there is need of granting more subsidy after the supply through P.D.S. the Government would do so and you need not worry about it.

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA (Etah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that the current central issue price of wheat for PDS is Rs. 280 per quintal and Rs. 230/- per quintal for areas covered under the revamped P.D.S. This is very good but I would like to draw your attention to the statement made by the hon. Minister in 1991 that we are self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains and we need not import. But inspite of this, they exported 10 lakh quintals. And almost 5-6 billion worth of goods including rice and sugar was imported.

On one hand you talk of self-reliance while on the other you ask for loans from the foreign countries. I would like to know as why there is a difference between the policy and intentions of the Government?

You have stated that the Government would distribute the imported wheat at Rs. 230 per quintal through public distribution system. Distribution is done through two agencies. First it comes to Food Corporation

of India then it comes to Central Supply centres Under this system no doubt, you are able to distribute properly in cities and towns but you are not able to distribute properly in hilly and Tarai areas properly

MR SPEAKER This is not a question of distribution, it is a question of import and export

DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA I am coming to the same point what are the steps being taken by the Government to ensure proper distribution to all parts of the country? I have already submitted that the intention of the Government is not clear Would the Government constitute some agency to go into this scandal?

[English]

MR SPEAKER You need not reply to the distribution part If you want, you can reply to the first part

[Translation]

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED First of all, I must make one thing clear that neither we have gone nor we will go to any country to beg If at all any contingency arises, we can afford to buy But it is wrong to say that we beg from anybody Sometimes we need to import because of climatic variations and failure of monsoon and some untoward situation that arises in wheat and rice producing areas i.e., which damages crops These all factors together affect the availability of foodgrains in the country We try to find other way outs to make up this shortage

SHRIDATTAMEGHE Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that even this year the rainfall has been very low at many places The Government always states that the country is self-reliant and it would not beg from foreign countries but we still go in for import that too on higher rates Our farmers are toiling hard but even then they do not get enough to meet their cost of production Would you pay more price to them instead of importing at higher rates?

Government procures wheat etc. from farmers at low rates while it imports at higher rates The same thing is going to be repeated this year also Would the Government give more price to the farmers instead of importing at higher rates?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED As far as the question of import is concerned, Government does not feel happy to import We are importing under the compulsion of circumstances, we can not quote it here as an precedent

[English]

MR SPEAKER To avoid imports are you going to pay more to the farmers

[Translation]

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED The import is

[English]

It is only to make up the total availability of grains in the country

[Translation]

So far as the production of wheat in the country is concerned it was 176 million tonnes last year This year there would not be good crop of coarse grains First listen to me fully The production of coarse foodgrains has been twenty seven million tonnes as against thirty three million tonnes last year The production has gone down by 6 million tonnes It pressure moves on the wheat

[English]

The total availability of wheat and other foodgrains has come down This year we are expecting only 170 million tonnes

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA The Government has issued contradictory statements during the last 5-6 months It has stated that it has exported six and half lakh

tonnes of wheat at the rate of Rs 526 per quintal in June, 1992 I was just now talking about the contradictory statements

You were saying a shot while ago that this decision was taken by previous Government, But one of your Minister issued a statement on 15 January from five State Hotel, I quote

[English]

The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool is quite comfortable "

[Translations]

MR SPEAKER Please listen to me first, he has said that they had imported wheat because procurement had gone down

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA this is what I want to say he has stated that recurrent has gone down While a statement is issued on 15 Jan 1992 saying

[English]

"The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool is quite comfortable

"For the first time, we have allowed FCI to deliver about 8 lakh tonnes of wheat for export "

[Translations]

On first of January government exports wheat and on 16th January it ass that Government would have to import ten lakhs, tonnes of wheat Then in March 'Tender Notice For wheat Import' is issued I would like to ask how is it spousal that in January wheat is exported at a rate of Rs 2450 and then within the months period during the same August session Government had steeed it has imported wheat at a rat of Rs, 525 per quintal I would like to know if there was any urgent need to import wheat? why was t not imported in the month of March when the international price was very low

MR SPEAKER This question has too

been answered That quality was different

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA I have heard the reply I would like to know from the hon Minister whether he would like to bet it investigated though a Parliamentary Committee as a number of regulars have been committed (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED Mr Speaker Sri get firsthand when the Hon Member speaks in a very high and forceful voice Nothing of the sort has happened that would require parliamentary committee probe Every thing is clear No contradictory statements have been issued I have clarified the whole situation in detail

MR SPEAKER Every thing has been clarified in the previous reply

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED to clarify the prove situation would like to tell the hon member that it was not true that the prices of wheat were very low in the month of march If the member wants I can give him the copy of international pries quoted every month (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA At lest he should clarify this much, whether the wheat has been bought form those form whom tenders were invited

MR SPEAEKR You have not heard the full reply, that is why you are asking this question

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED The tenders you are talking about were not acceptable

MR SPEAKER They did not fulfil the condition

[English]

Every th ng is explained

PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATE-SHWARLU While Answering the question,

the hon. Minister has said this.

MR. SPEKAER: Now, please directly come to the question because we have covered only three to four questions.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: While answering the question, the hon. Minister has said that USA has not come forward to give subsidy; and that is one of the reasons why the procurement cost outside the country is very high. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether withdrawing subsidy by USA is part of the present strategy that the USA is expensing on the Indian Government to accept the Dunked proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, this kind of a question will be answered either by the Ministry of Commerce or by the Foreign Ministry. You ask a question which can be replied to by the Food Ministry or Agriculture Ministry.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: What was the subsidy that had been extended by the USA earlier; and how much has been withdrawn, as far as USA is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. Do you have the figures?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: It is not a general rule. They do not give subsidy as a matter of general rule. Only in selective cases if they so decide, then the subsidy is given. It is not a subsidy; it is export enhancement programme under which they give some sort of assistance.

Electrification of Railway Line between New Delhi and Trivandrum

*494. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for doubling and electrification of railway line between New Delhi and Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof including sections which have already been doubled

and electrified;

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether there is any proposal to start more fast trains on this route; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The position in respect of doubling and electrification of railway line between New Delhi and Trivandrum is as under:

(i) DOUBLING

The distance between New Delhi-Trivandrum via Kerala Express route is 3055 Km. Out of this 2645 km is already doubled.

On Eranakulam-Kayamkulam (15 km via Kottayam), an alternative 100 km BG line via Alleppey has already been taken up. On completion, 2 single lines would be available—one via Alleppey and the other via Kottayam the existing one.

doubling of 108 km in patches GT route and 106 km on Kayamkulam-Trivandrum route is in progress.

Gifur-renigunta (83 Kms.) is the single line section on this route and traffic on this section does not justify doubling.

(ii) ELECTRIFICATION

New Delhi to Erode (2588 Kms) has already been electrified. Electrification of Erode-Eranakulam has been included in the budget for 1992-93. There is no proposal at present to electrify Eranakulam-Trivandrum section.

(d) and (e). Introduction of more fast trains is an ongoing exercise, depending on