

cost, the Central issue prices (ex-FCI godown) of wheat and rice issued to the States/Union Territories by Food Corporation of India from

the central pool for the public distribution system (PDS) have been increased with effect from 11-1-1993 as under:-

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Central issue price (ex-FCI godown)		Increase per quintal
	Prior to 11.1.93	From 11.1.93	
WHEAT	280.00	330.00	50.00
RICE			
Common	377.00	437.00	60.00
Fine	437.00	497.00	60.00
Superfine	458.00	518.00	60.00

There being no stocks of pulses in the central pool, these are not channelised for distribution through PDS.

(d) Wheat and rice and coarse grains are presently showing a subdued tendency on account of their better availability. This situation is likely to continue in future on account of the expected better rabi harvest.

(b) the percentage decrease in export registered during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost its export?

[Translation]

#### Export of Oilseeds

\*14. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy decline in the export of oilseeds due to use of banned insecticides in the country;

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). There is a decline in export of oilseeds due to several reasons such as unfavourable international prices and absence of purchases by the former Soviet Union. The detection of residue of banned pesticides, (DDT, BHC etc). has also contributed to decrease in export particularly that of sesame to certain markets. The details of exports of oilseeds during the last two years are as under:-

(Qty. In Mt)

Name of the Seed	90-91	91-92	% decrease
1. HPD groundnut	49,572	5,121	89.7
2. Sesame & Niger Seed	62,517	57,002	8.8

(c) Ministry of Commerce have taken steps to create a policy environment to boost exports of agriculture products. Use of pesticides such as DDT & BHC was banned in the production of oilseeds. State Governments have to restrain farmers from using banned pesticides through their extension services. Adoption of improved cleaning methods and quality control methods by the exporters is being promoted. Various boards and authorities organise participation of our exporters in exhibitions abroad and arrange buyersellers meet to have interaction with importers in other countries.

#### Palace on Wheels ' Train

\*15. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRI SHANKERSINGH  
VAGHEELA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the ' Palace on Wheels' trains to the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce similar trains in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A proposal received from State Govt. of Tamil Nadu in this regard is under consideration.

[English]

#### Public Distribution System

\*16. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI SARAT CHANDRA  
PATTANAYAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the working of the revamped Public Distribution System for helping the poor;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and New line. (c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be assessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). The Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was launched on 1.1.1992 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at Barmer in Rajasthan. The Scheme drawn up in consultation with State Government has been in operation for just over a year. The Central Government has been monitoring the Progress made by the States/UTs.

As per reports received from the State Government till 31st January, 1993, 10121 fair price shops have been opened and 2.6 million ration cards issued to the population living in the identified areas. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to develop infrastructure facilities for creation of additional storage capacity, arrange door-step delivery of PDS commodities at the fair price shops and set up fair price shop level Vigilance Committees etc.