

are decided by the people of that line, they are the representatives in this matter. The question has also been raised in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of our department that such admissions should not cross a certain limit and it has been decided to constitute a small committee to fix certain criteria for admissions for the next year to avoid such complaints in future.

[English]

PRO. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: Will the hon. Minister please state as to whether the experts in the field of education and all other committees connected with the educational system of our country have discouraged admission on the basis of special dispensation, on the ground that admission on the basis of special dispensation has led to the dilution of educational standard in the Kendriya Vidyalayas and cause difficulties in the administration of such Vidyalayas because it inflates the class strength?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the stated position on this is very clear and I would agree with the hon. Member to this extent that as far as possible, this should not be done. But we are also aware of circumstances where this becomes inevitable. Therefore, there is a provision that it should be done. The question is to what extent? We will try to decide that in such a manner so that there is no complaint on this account.

Stock Position of Foodgrains

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*678. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the stock position of foodgrains in State of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the projected procurement of wheat and rice during 1992-93 marketing season as against the actual demand of these States; and

(c) the stock position of foodgrains at present in those States separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of House.

(b) While the allotment of wheat to West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92 was 10.82 lakh tones and 2.76 lakh tonnes respectively, there is no possibility of procurement of wheat in these States during 1992-93. In case of rice, the marketing season for which starts on 1st October 1992, it is too early to make any assessment of the likely procurement.

STATEMENT

(a) and (c). The stocks of rice and wheat with the Food Corporation of India in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh as on 1st March, during 1990 to 1992 were as follows :

(Lakh tonnes)

	1990		1991		1992	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	wheat
West Bengal	3.63	1.28	3.42	0.99	3.55	0.50

(Lakh tonnes)

	1990		1991		1992	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	wheat
Andhra Pradesh	8.40	1.35	21.43	1.39	10.09	0.22

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, in surplus States, procurement is in fact a price support operation. But in deficit States like West Bengal, it has become virtually a police operation because the market price remains much higher than the procurement price. I would, therefore, like to know from the Minister whether the Government has any contemplation to review the scheme of procurement in deficit States like West Bengal and to take appropriate measures for making the scheme effective.

Secondly, does the Government also contemplate to streamline the BSF administration throughout the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal to stop smuggling of foodgrains to the other side of the border?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Sir, We have been reviewing the procurement policy. In fact, we have been insisting upon all the State Governments to procure more and more because the Central Government's pool depends upon the States' contribution.

As regards West Bengal, no doubt it is a deficit State. But in spite of that, we have been impressing upon the West Bengal Government to procure and they do procure. But it is a very small amount. They procured only one lakh tonnes though they produced hundred lakh tonnes.

As regards smuggling to Bangladesh, it is the State Government who can stop it.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, it

appears from the reply that the stock position of both rice and wheat, particularly that of wheat, in West Bengal, has depleted. We are also witnessing that Central allocation of rice and wheat for West Bengal is being reduced. In February 1992, rice and wheat allocations have come down from 1,25,000 MT and 1,26,000 MT to 70,000 MT 90,000 MT respectively.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask a question quickly.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Just now I am coming to that. As a result, the public distribution system of the State is failing to cater to the needs of the people. So, I would like to know whether the Government is seriously thinking of augmenting the allocation of rice and wheat for West Bengal. If so, to what extent and by when?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: It is a fact that the stock position of wheat is at low level. As you know, the stock position of the central pool is also low.

As regards the rice stock, it is quite comfortable in West Bengal also. In fact, in West Bengal the lifting was more in 1991 than in 1990. In 1990, figure for rice was 5.92 lakh tonnes, whereas in 1991, it is 6.92 lakh tonnes. Similar is the case with wheat also. In 1990, it was 8.98 lakh tonnes and in 1991 it is 9.10 lakh tonnes. It is true that in the months of January and February, there has been a reduction, because in the peak season we decrease the allocation and in

the lean season from October onwards, we increase the allocation.

SHRIGANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the current foodgrains stock is sufficient to meet the revamped public distribution system. As the meteorologists have predicated a late monsoon this year, in case of low foodgrain production in the current year, I would again like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to face the situation and meet the requirements of the revamped public distribution system in the succeeding year 1992-93

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: As regards rice, we are in a position you meet the situation. As regards, wheat, procurement has started only now and we will have the clear picture in the month of July.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, Kerala is one State where there is statutory rationing. The Central Government are committed to meet the requirement of the rationed articles such as rice, wheat and sugar. According to information, the requirement of Kerala is 160 metric tonnes per month. Whereas, the supply from the Central Pool is not even 150 metric tonnes. The public distribution system which is well organised in Kerala, is now in a very difficult situation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister..

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ahamed, this question relates to only West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Have you read the question?

SHRI E. AHAMED. Yes Sir, But may I say that this is about the stock position of the two most important States. The Minister will be in a position to enlighten us....

MR. SPEAKER: No please. Sit down. Yes Mr. Pal.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: Apart from the paucity of supply of rice and wheat to West Bengal, the rice and wheat supplied through the public distribution system there, is of the lowest quality and it is almost not edible at all by the common man. Is the Government aware of this position in West Bengal's public distribution system and if so what steps are the Government likely to take?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: The Government of West Bengal have not brought this quality aspect to our notice. It is the responsibility of the State Government to verify the quality of the foodgrains before accepting the same.

Diversion of Ridge Forest Area In Delhi

*679. **SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ridge forest area in Delhi has been diverted for construction purposes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Diversion of forest area for construction purpose has not been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last three years in Delhi.

(b) and (c), Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Ridge area is the only natural green area of Delhi. To maintain the ecological balance it is very essential to