

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decisions to export wheat were taken in August, 1990 and April, 1991 by the Government in order to generate foreign exchange resources for meeting the critical balance of payments situation. Subsequently, it was noticed that the procurement of wheat during April-June, 1991 had declined sharply by about 35 lakh tonnes as compared to the previous year. As a matter of precaution the Government decided in September, 1991 to restrict the export of wheat during 1991-92 to 8 lakh tonnes. The wheat supply position was reviewed on a continuing basis and it was decided in January, 1991 that no further export of wheat may be undertaken beyond the firm contractual obligation already entered into by the STC/MMTC. During 1991-92 (upto 29.2.92) the STC/MMTC exported 6.72 lakh tonnes of wheat, of which 4.19 lakh tonnes have been exported by MMTC and 2.53 lakh tonnes by STC. The MMTC has exported mostly on C & F basis at around US \$ 116 per tonne inclusive of a freight element of about US \$ 13 per tonne. The exports of STC have been mostly around US \$ 95 per tonne on FOB basis. Alongwith the decision to curtail the quota for export of wheat, the Government decided on 15th January, 1992 to make arrangements for import of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat with a view to increase the availability of foodgrains and to contain the rise in prices. No contracts for import of wheat have been concluded so far.

In October, 1991 it was noted that there was a disconcerting upward trend in the open market prices of wheat. In order to relieve the pressure on prices, the Govern-

ment decided to resort to open market sale of wheat. The sale is not only open to roller flour mills, but also to other purchasers viz.; wholemeal atta chakkies, atta chakkies, bread manufacturers, and Government controlled organisations like Super Bazar, State Civil Supplies Corporation, Consumer Cooperatives etc.

There is at present no control on the prices of wheat products.

[*Translation*]

Restoration of Trains

3277. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the Trains suspended during the last one year in the Chhota Nagpur Santhal Paryana area of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Passenger Train on Aurangabad-Manmad-Dound-Pune-Bombay Section

3278. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new Passenger Train on Aurangabad-Manmad-Dound-Pune-Bombay section; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?