Export of Indian wheat to foreign countries facing undercutting and reduction of prices

786. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that export of Indian wheat to foreign countries neighbouring countries is facing difficulty of under-cutting and heavy reduction of prices by some western wheat producing countries;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether we have been able to establish firm supply contracts with any country and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) There is stiff competition in the international market for export of wheat. Food Corporation of India has entered into a contract with Exporthkleb, Moscow, on 9.4 1985, to supply 5 lakh tonnes of wheat to USSR. A quantity of 1.26 lakh tonnes has already been shipped against this contract to USSR 15,7,1985. Further, against a upto quantity of 1 lakh tonnes of wheat to be supplied as aid to the drought affected African countries, a quantity of 72,903 tonnes has already been shipped.

Remittances from Indians Abroad

787. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in remittances from Indians abroad;
- (b) if so, the rate of inflow during the last four months-monthwise;
- (c) the plausible reasons for this;
- (d) what impact, if any, it will have on smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) No precise information about remittances received exclusively from Indians abroad is available since details of remittances of Rs. 10,000/- and below are not required to be reported to the Reserve Bank of India by the Authorised Dealers under the current rules. However, monthwise figures of quick and provisional estimates of non-export receipts for the past five months of the current year are as below:—

January : Rs. 866.18 crores
February : Rs. 748.31 crores
March : Rs. 889.68 crores

April : Rs. 571.31 crores

May : Rs. 693.82 crores

(Latest available)

The above figures represent gross non-export receipts passing through authorised dealers on account of shipping receipts, insurance receipts, dividend receipts, tourism receipts etc. besides four heads of receipts relevant to the term 'inward remittances' namely (i) family maintenance, (ii) savings of non-residents, (iii) migrant transfer and (iv) money order receipts.

(d) It is difficult to quantify the impact of increase or decrease in remittances from abroad on smuggling.

Commissioning of Pelletisation Plant of Kudremukh at Mangalore

788. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which the pelletisation plant of Kudremukh and Mangalore is proposed to be commissioned;
- (b) the time by which the shipments of pellets are proposed to be exported;
- (c) the countries to which these pellets are proposed to be exported; and
- (d) the estimated cost of this plant?