

(f) the procedure adopted for the purchase of wheat from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). As the demand depends on various factors, such as population growth, extent of urbanisation, levels of income, prices of substitutes etc., precise estimates of requirements of foodgrains in the country are not available. The estimated stocks of foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) with Public Agencies as on 1.6.1992 were 16.48 million tonnes. The target for production of foodgrains for the crop year 1992-93 (July-June) is 183.0 million tonnes.

(c) to (f). The Government entered into a contract with the Canadian wheat Board on 19 June, 1992 for import of 10.05 lakh tonnes of wheat. The landed cost of Canadian wheat has been estimated at Rs. 5260/- M.T.

Employment Generation with Environment Protection

982. SHRI V.S. VIJAYAR-
AGHAVAN:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government have formulated any new scheme linking employment generation with environment protection;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which the scheme likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the government proposed to provide financial assistance to the State Governments under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e). Afforestation, tree planting and Wastelands development activities, which improve the environment and as well as generate employment, are already being carried out. In addition, in the Eight Plan period it is proposed to set up "Vaniki Vahinis" for promoting the 'greening' efforts for ecological restoration and to motivate people for eco-development as well as provide employment to rural youth, ex-servicemen, etc. The Eighth Plan is under finalization.

Compensation to Rail Accident Victims

983. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether The amount of compensation paid to the victims of railway accidents is less than the amount paid to the victims of those killed in air accidents;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the limit of compensation amount to victims of railway accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fare paid by air passengers is much higher and quantum of traffic is very low as compared to those on Railways. Also the risk factor in air travel is much higher whereas it is very low on Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The amount of Rs. 2 lakhs as compensation in the case of death or total disability is considered adequate.

Loan to Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra

984. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHE TOPE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of 27 newly licensed cooperative sugar Factories in Maharashtra is held up for want of funds from the financial institutions;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to expedite soft term loan to these factories alongwith incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) According to the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, construction work of 27 newly licensed cooperative sugar factories is held up due to non availability of funds from the financial institutions.

(b) The financial institutions are not considering the loan applications of these 27

sugar factories as their viability is uncertain.

(c) Grant of loan to these units is a matter to be decided by the sugar factories with the financial institutions. Formulation of a new incentive scheme is under consideration.

Black Marketing of Tickets

985. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

DR. R. MALLU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "Railway reservation-Touts make hay in summer rush" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 22, 1992;

(b) if so, the facts thereof particularly the role of railway employees in this racket in the Capital itself;

(c) the number of persons arrested and punished for black marketing of railway tickets in Delhi and Bombay during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check malpractices in railway reservation in Delhi and Bombay and in other areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Capital, no railway employee has been found involved in this racket.