

(SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) The figures are as under:—

(Tonnes)	
Month	Quantity of levy sugar allotted
January, 1980	20,837.2
February, 1980	20,837.2
March, 1980	20,841.4
April, 1980	20,851.4
May, 1980	20,841.4
June, 1980	20,841.4

(b) The allotment orders against the sanctioned monthly levy sugar quota of Madhya Pradesh were issued each month regularly in favour of Food Corporation of India.

(c) Monthwise quantities of sugar delivered by the Food Corporation of India from its godowns to the nominees of Madhya Pradesh Government during the period from January to June 1980 are as under.

(Tonnes)	
Month	Quantity supplied by Food Corporation of India.
January, 1980	1,2506.0
February, 1980	14,917.0
March, 1980	15,687.0
April, 1980	20,41.4
May, 1980	21,122.0
June, 1980	[21,464.0

The validity period of monthly levy sugar allotment orders issued on the

factories has been extended from time to time to enable the Food Corporation of India to complete the lifting of entire allotted sugar from the factories for supply to the State Government.

Decline in the Price of Marine Products

6728. SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep fall in price of marine products, particularly that of Shrimp;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the measures of relief being contemplated to protect the interest of small operator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):
(a) The prices of marine products, both in the domestic and export markets have not registered any significant fall. However, export price of shrimp, particularly to the Japanese market, had fallen for sometime.

(b) The price of Shrimp in the Japanese market had fallen mainly due to—

(i) wide fluctuations in the value of Japanese Yen against US Dollar;

(ii) the heavy losses incurred by some of the major importers and scare caused by the bankruptcy among some Japanese firms, towards the end of last year and early this year, created resistance among the Japanese buyers.

(iii) Shortfall in the domestic demand in Japan and consequent dull movement of products in the market.

(c) There are general schemes like distribution of insulated fish boxes at subsidised rates to the mechanised fishing vessels, operation of refrigerated trucks at reasonable prices for

the transport of frozen cargo, operation of interest subsidy scheme for modernisation of processing plants etc.

Survey of Hungry Children

6729. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding the children in the country who go to bed every night hungry and who are under-nourished;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) No country-wide survey has been conducted with the objective of studying the incidence of hunger and under-nourishment among children. However, limited surveys have been conducted on the prevalence of malnutrition.

(b) The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, under the Indian Council of Medical Research, is conducting surveys in 10 different States through their National Nutritional Monitoring Bureau network, to study the nutritional state of the entire population, including children. The States covered are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The Food and Nutrition Board of the Union Department of Food, has also been conducting Diet and Nutrition Studies in rural areas of certain States. These studies have been completed in six States of

Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Rajasthan. In the four States of Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, these studies have been completed but data is under analysis. Field studies are in progress in West Bengal and Kerala.

Under the studies of the National Nutritional Monitoring Bureau, the prevalence of under-nutrition among pre-school children (1—5 years) has been studied by "weight for age" criterion. The survey revealed the following grades of malnutrition in 10 States:

(i) Mild—42.4 per cent.

(ii) Moderate—34.9 per cent.

(iii) Severe—8.4 per cent.

TABLE—I in the statement gives the Statewise details. The results of the studies conducted by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Union Department of Food, have been indicated in the Statement—in Tables II and III, showing the *per capita* daily intake of food and nutrients derived therefrom has compared to recommended allowances among the pre-school children in the age-group of 1—5 years and the school going children (6—12 years) in six States, respectively.

(c) Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition among children and has evolved various schemes in the States and Central Sectors to tackle the problem of malnutrition. A Task Force on Nutrition Policy, Planning and Implementation has been set up by the Planning Commission to advise the Government on both long term and short term measures for solving this problem.