

(d) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There is no plan a present to set up a nuclear power plant at Nagarjunasagar.

(b) Two resolution were passed by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 16-8-1983 and on 13-9-1985 requesting Government of India to locate a nuclear power plant at Nagarjunasagar.

(c) and (d) Nagarjunasagar site was rated second as per the report of the Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy, on the Southern Electricity Region, submitted in February, 1984. The priority for setting up of nuclear power plant at any site is decided by taking into consideration the electricity needs and energy resources in the different regions, alternatives available to an area to meet its electricity needs, plan allocations and other policy considerations. The proposal is to be evaluated accordingly and decision taken on the basis of available resources for the nuclear power sector.

Price of Sugar

1183. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difference between the price of sugar in open market and the price of sugar under Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the difference and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The Government is following a dual pricing policy in respect of sugar with the objective of providing a certain portion of the consumers requirement at a lower price through the Public

Distribution System. The extra requirements, if any, the consumers have to be met by them through purchase of free sale sugar at higher open market prices. No change in the present policy is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Quantity of Wheat Purchased in U.P.

1185. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat purchased by various Government agencies in Uttar Pradesh during the present season;

(b) how it compares with that of last year; and

(c) if the quantity purchased during the current season is less than that of the previous year, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) The procurement of wheat under price support operations aims at ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers and avoid distress sale. All the stocks of prescribed specifications, offered for sale by farmers at MSP, are purchased by FCI/State agencies. But the farmers are free to sell their produce in open market at prices higher than MSP fixed by Government.

The main reasons for less procurement of wheat in U.P. during current rabi marketing season than the quantity procured during the previous season are as follows:—

(i) The open market prices of wheat in U.P. being higher than MSP of Rs. 225 per quintal. The open market prices ranged from Rs. 230 to Rs. 320 per quintal in various mandies of the State.

(ii) Reported with-holding of large quantity of wheat by