

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Normally foodgrains are supplied to Mizoram from Food Corporation of India's depot at Silchar. In view of the limited carrying capacity of the Railways over the Lunding-Badarpur Section, and in order to supplement rail movement, the movement of foodgrains by road from Gauhati and other broad gauge points is sometimes resorted to. Mizoram Government has recently agreed to lift 2000 tonnes rice a month from Gauhati and other broad gauge terminals. The balance quantity of rice is supplied from Silchar depot. Food Corporation of India has also appointed contractors for moving foodgrains from Gauhati and New Bongaigaon to Silchar.

(c) Date-wise details of railway wagons booked from New Bongaigaon and Gauhati and their date-wise arrival at Silchar are not readily available. The following number of wagons were released at Silchar between December, 1984 and February, 1985 :—

Month	No. of wagons released		
	Rice	Wheat	Total
December, 1984	456	295	711
January, 1985	333	323	656
February, 1985	198	342	540

(d) For a better co-ordination in the transportation of foodgrains and sugar, instructions have been issued to allow Mizoram Government to lift rice stocks from Gauhati and other broad gauge points by road ; to arrange inter-depot movement in consultation with the Railways ; to explore the possibility of moving foodgrains through river route to Karimganj for supplies to Mizoram. Railways have been requested to augment despatch of foodgrains to North Eastern region and the position is being constantly monitored.

Distress sale of Ginger in Mizoram

3080. **SHRI LAL DUHOMA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the existing average wholesale and retail prices of ginger in Delhi, Calcutta and Gauhati ;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a distress sale of ginger in Mizoram as a result of which ginger growers have incurred a heavy loss ;

(c) if so, reasons for fall in the prices ; and

(d) action taken to help ginger growers of Mizoram to find better markets ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) There is fluctuation in the price of ginger in terminal and retail markets. However, the wholesale rate of ginger per quintal depending upon quality ranges between Rs. 180/- and Rs. 200/- in Calcutta ; Rs. 200/- and Rs. 250/- in Delhi ; and Rs. 100/- and Rs. 120/- in Gauhati. The retail price in Delhi is ruling between Rs. 3/- and Rs. 5/- per Kg.

(b) and (c). Higher production, larger marketed surplus and market distortions are causing fall in prices of ginger in Mizoram. In the open market, the farmers are reportedly being offered lower prices than the price paid by the Mizoram Cooperative Marketing Federation (MIZOFED).

(d) In order to help ginger growers, the proposal of the Mizoram Administration for market intervention operation has been agreed to. The intervention operations are being carried out by the implementing agency, namely the Mizoram Cooperative Marketing Federation. The scheme envisages that ginger of fair average quality would be purchased at Rs. 200/- per quintal at Aizwal by MIZOFED to provide market support to ginger growers. To begin with, MIZOFED has been authorised to purchase up to 25,000 quintals,