

to draw the milk in these groups even after the withdrawal of tokens and introduction of 'first come first served' basis. There has been resistance from the members of the group system to break the groups and stand in the queue for the draw of milk. Efforts are being made to do away with this system and D.M.S. has reported that the system has been dissolved at about 100 booths out of a total of 150 such milk booths where the groups system was prevalent. Efforts to discontinue the group system at the remaining booths are continuing.

In order to improve the present distribution system and keeping in view the high demand of D.M.S. milk, re-introduction of token system has been taken up by the D.M.S. in some selected areas on experimental basis. On the basis of the result of the experiment, extension of the system to other areas in a phased manner would be considered.

#### Purchase of Gum

5391. SHRI BHIM SINGH :  
DR. SUBRAMANIAM  
SWAMY :  
SHRI SATYENDRA  
NARAIN SINHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a co-operative corporation has been authorised to purchase gum from the Adivasi areas and sell it further;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that some other persons are also engaged in the trade of sale and purchase of gum from the tribal areas;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the country is suffering a huge loss of foreign exchange every year due to smuggling of gum on a large scale; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :  
(a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Abolition of Rationing System

5392. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the reasons as to why Government are eager to abolish the statutory rationing system in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : The Central Government is generally not in favour of statutory rationing in the country because the overall position of the availability of essential commodities within the country has been satisfactory and their prices have been within control. The Central Government undertakes advance planning and action in the matter of supply-management of certain key commodities. These are being distributed to the consumers through a comprehensive public distribution system, supplementing the free market mechanism.

The statutory rationing system presently exists only in a few parts of West Bengal. Its imposition in other parts of the country is considered neither necessary nor feasible.

#### विभिन्न खेलों के लिए खिलाड़ियों का चयन

5393. श्री इंगर सिंह :

श्री राम लाल राही :

क्या खेल मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हमारे देश में खिलाड़ियों को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए उचित सुविधाएं नहीं हैं;