

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) The augmentation of the existing transmission facility at Surat in Gujarat depends upon the availability of adequate financial resources.

[English]

Procurement of Wheat

522. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of wheat this year has been more than that of the last year but the procurement has been less and the farmers are withholding the wheat for selling in the open market where the prevailing rate is more;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to see that in times to come the food stock position does not deteriorate thereby smashing the entire public distribution system;

(c) whether the farmers are required to sell a particular stock to the Government; if so, whether that much stock has been procured; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The production of wheat during crop year 1990-91 has been estimated to be around 54.5 million tonnes as against 49.6 million tonnes of the previous year. A quantity of 7.7 million tonnes of wheat has been procured as on 12-7-1991 during the current rabi marketing season 1991-92 as compared to 10.9 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year. The minimum support price (MSP) of wheat was fixed at Rs. 225 per quintal for 1991-92 Rabi Marketing Season which was higher by Rs. 15 per quintal than the M.S.P. for wheat for 1990-91 season.

The procurement of wheat, under price support operations, is totally on a voluntary basis and all the stocks of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) offered for sale by the farmers are

purchased by FCI/State agencies. The farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market at prices higher than the support price fixed by the Government.

(b) As on 1-6-1991, the total availability of wheat stock in the central pool is 11.31 million tonnes, which is considered sufficient to meet the requirements of PDS and other welfare schemes for the remaining part of the wheat year ending on 31st March, 1992.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Radio Stations

523. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new radio stations set up in the country during 1991 so far;

(b) the criteria laid down for starting a new radio station;

(c) whether Government propose to start new FM radio stations in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) During 1991, 18 new Radio Stations have been set up so far. These are at Alvar, Tirupati, Batripada, Godhra, Ahmednagar, Bhatinda, Kathua, Be'ul, Bilaspur, Sasaram, Chitradurga, Shivpuri, Hassan, Cannanore, Jorhat, Nanded, Anantpur and Kurukshetra.

(b) Such factors as the need to provide service to the areas not hitherto covered and extend service to hilly, backward, tribal and border areas; technical feasibility extent of resultant coverage to rural and urban population; availability of programme production and linkage facilities; the linguistic and cultural needs; and the availability of financial resources are