

(b) The stocks of wheat in Central Pool as on April 1, 1991 were 56.45 lakhs tonnes.

(c) The procurement of wheat during 1991-92 marketing season (April-march) as on 28.2.1992 has been 77.52 lakh tonnes.

(d) A quantity of 70.95 lakh tonnes, 64.52 lakh tonnes and 89.06 lakh tonnes of wheat was distributed from the Central Pool for Public Distribution system during 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively.

[Translation]

Fixing of Margin on Supply of Foodgrains

2332. SHRI ARVIND NETAM:
SHRI SATYNARAYAN
JATIYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of margin fixed by the Union Government on supply of foodgrains to States on concessional rates for tribal areas;

(b) whether several States have demanded increase in this margin;

(c) if so, the action taken so far in this regard;

(d) whether the amount of margin fixed by the Union Government is less than the actual expenditure incurred by the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to make up the losses being incurred by the Food and Supply departments of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN

GOGOI): (a) Rs. 25.00 per quintal.

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir, some States have conveyed that the margin allowed is inadequate and does not fully cover their actual transport and distribution charges etc.

(e) In cases where the margin is regarded as inadequate, the balance is to be borne by the States themselves as part of their own contribution towards the welfare of the tribal population.

Oil Slick in Bay of Bengal

2333. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
DR. ASIM BALA
SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY:
SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA.
SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM
CHANDRASEKHAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an oil slick is threatening animal and plant life in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether the slick is also threatening the mangrove forests in Sunderbans,

(c) if so, how this slick has occurred, and

(d) the steps being taken to counteract this situation before this slick moves towards the land in Sunderbans forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). An oil slick was sighted in the Bay of Bengal in the territorial waters of Bangladesh about 40

Kms south of New Mocre Island. The slick has been reportedly caused when crude oil was being transferred from a Singapore based tanker T. T. Energy to a small Bangladesh Shipping Corporation Tanker at the Island of Kutubdia off the Chittagong coast. The discharge occurred when one of the old tankers on the T T. Energy sprung a leak.

The oil slick was initially 13 Kms long but later on split into small patches. As of now, no slick is visible in the area. Since the slick has totally disintegrated, it does not pose any threat to animal, plant life and mangrove forests in Sunderbans.

An Inter-Departmental Coordination Group is monitoring the situation.

12.00 hra.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai). Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Home Minister to the fact that the law of the jungle prevails in Bihar. Just a few days back....(Interruptions) you will have to listen to me. (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been four kidnappings in the last one week. Only day before yesterday, a businessman's child was kidnapped in Begusara district. Before that, a Doctor's child was abducted and when the people went to meet the Chief Minister, the latter told them that the child must be taking a boat ride somewhere in the Ganga and will return himself within two-three days. You can judge the situation for yourself. Through you, I would like to tell the Union Government not to remain a silent spectator to these incidents. It should intervene in the matter. (Interruptions)

A brutal massacre took place at Barah and the entire world was stunned. Such

inhuman killings are taking place and kidnappings have become a regular feature. Only day before yesterday, a businessman Shri Rungta's child was kidnapped (Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should listen to all these things.

The Janata Dal MPs won't raise such matters, although they claim to play a constructive role. They can see for themselves. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leaders of the Janata Dal are present in the House. (Interruptions). The whole world has been a witness to the inhuman carnage at Barah, yet no one of them felt it necessary to raise the matter in the House. They haven't initiated any action against the guilty.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will have to intervene in this matter. You will have to tell the Union Government that the occurrence of such incidents in Bihar is a matter of shame for the entire country. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs towards this issue. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a court, you can not question him like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking you to sit down.

[English]

Please take your seats. I am standing on my legs. Is it necessary every day for the Presiding Officer to stand up and say that you will be allowed one after the other? Why don't you think that the Members would be allowed one after the other? Why all of you are getting together all the time and then