

ment of Railways have allotted only Rs. 9 crores which will be sufficient only to meet the overhead expenses. That is all. No more work can be done with Rs. 9 crores. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that we get greater allocation from Soviet Russia to take up and complete this work faster.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: I think it is at an early state. I am unable to say anything.

[*Translation*]

But it can be stated here that this consortium has been formed after taking this point into consideration and in this connection we have allocated Rs. 2 crores for the current year and ultimately it will be increased to Rs. 100 crore. But the particular condition here is that Central Government is not going to bear the burden of the entire expenditure alone, it will bear only 40% of the expenses.

[*English*]

40% is from the State sector, 30% is from the local bodies.

[*Translation*]

And you have submitted that Metro Railway system is under construction in Madras and the Centre will take care of it.

[*English*]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether an assessment has been made as to what type of mass transport system will be necessary for our country and particularly in relation to the economics of operation, whether medium strip, or the underground or the elevated?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: That is why the

Soviet team is coming here to assess as to how this work is to be undertaken. In the survey conducted of Delhi in 1974, it was recommended that out of the total length of 183 kms of railway tracks, 58 kms. should be underground and rest of it should be on the surface. At the moment, we cannot say as to how this will be done, but the Soviet team will make an assessment of the situation and make recommendations in this regard... (*Interruptions*) So far as expenditure is concerned, hon. Shri Aggarwal has stated that it will be of about Rs. 4000 crore.

Food demanded by Maharashtra Government

*379. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH†:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains demanded by Government of Maharashtra during the current year and the extent to which it has been met;

(b) whether on account of inadequate supply of foodgrains to Maharashtra, less quantity of foodgrains is being given through Public Distribution System to the poor people of that region; and

(c) if so, the time by which this situation is likely to improve and regular supply of foodgrains in adequate quantity will be restored to Maharashtra?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) During the current year, the Government of Maharashtra have been allocated a quantity of 17.95 lakh tonnes of foodgrains against their demand of 23.80 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c). Supply of foodgrains to Maharashtra has not been inadequate. Lifting of foodgrains by the State from the Central Pool in 1988 has been higher than in the corresponding period of the last year. The allocation from the Central Pool is, however, only supplemental in nature to the open market availability and its further distribution within the State including coverage and scale of issue to the consumers is for the concerned States to decide.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the demand for rice and wheat by the State and what is the supply against that demand as far as rice and wheat are concerned.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, is he referring to the demand for the current year or for the last year?

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: The hon. Minister has given the figures. He has allocated a quantity of 17.95 lakh tonnes of foodgrains against their demand of 23.80 lakh tonnes. I would like to have a bifurcation of that in terms of wheat and rice.

SHRI SUKH RAM: The demand for the year for rice was 9.55 lakh tonnes and for wheat it was 14.25 lakh tonnes. Against that, allotment in the case of rice was 7.50 lakh tonnes and in the case of wheat it was 10.45 lakh tonnes. Against that allotment, the off-take was 5.91 lakh tonnes in the case of rice and 8.56 lakh tonnes in the case of wheat. This figure is available up to October. So, the off-take was less than what was allotted to Maharashtra.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, it is surprising to hear this answer from the hon. Minister that the lifting was less than what was allotted. The lifting was less because of non-availability of rice and wheat in the FCI

Godowns in Bombay and other Godowns in the State of Maharashtra. Is it not a fact that the FCI Godowns were empty during the months of August, September and October? Is it not a fact that supply of rice was made available after the landing of the ship at Bombay Port? If it is so, then why it was allowed to remain so? Secondly, the hon. Minister has already stated in his reply that the allocation from the Central Pool is, however, only supplemental. Sir, you know, the State of Maharashtra is a deficit State, as far as foodgrains are concerned. Is it a fact that the Government are not allowing the State to purchase rice from the other States which are having surplus? If it is so, then what is the reason? What steps the Government are thinking to take to help the deficit States?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Only one instance, probably in the month of September, came to my notice about the non-availability of rice with the FCI Godowns in Maharashtra. I immediately issued instructions to the FCI that rice should be diverted to Maharashtra and the shortage in supply should be made up immediately. But thereafter, I did not receive any complaints. It may be in one or two instances that rice was not available with the FCI. But as far as the other months are concerned, I did not receive any complaints. Even rice was available in Maharashtra in the month of November to the tune of 36,302 tonnes. This is the quantity which was available with the FCI.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, my questions were fully not answered. (*Interruptions*)

Increase in Agricultural Labour

*380. **DR. A.K. PATEL †:**
SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: