

by way of supply of commodities from Cuba on a barter basis. They made a request for a minimum of 360 days deferred payment facility.

It was explained to them that in view of our own stock position, we were considering import of wheat and therefore it would not be possible to supply wheat to them. As regards supply of that we would consider supply of ten thousand tonnes of rice in the near future after we had made a review of our ability to grant a credit, and another ten thousand tonnes of rice after we had made a review of the prospects of the next kharif crop.

The Government of USA have not refused to sell wheat to India. We are free to buy wheat in the open market in USA. However, they have indicated that they may not be able to extend a subsidy under the Export Enhancement Programme (EEP) for the proposed purchases of wheat by India. The subsidy under the EEP is given by the US Government to their farmers to enable them to be competitive in their exports vis a vis similar exports of other countries. The US Agriculture Secretary is reported to have cited India not being a traditional importer of US wheat and India's supply of rice to Cuba as factors affecting their decision in the matter. We have conveyed our concern to the US Government over these reported remarks. So far no formal communication has been received from the US Government in this regard.

The Government will not be influenced by any extraneous consideration in the matter of supply of rice to Cuba.

We are making the reviews and we will take an appropriate decision. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Shri Tarun Gogoi

(II) **Export and Import of wheat**

[Translation]

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

I. **Export of Wheat:**

On 17th August, 1990, the Government had decided to export wheat upto ten lakh tonnes through the STC and MMTC. Of this, only 2.01 lakh tonnes could be exported within the financial year 1990-91. The quantity of wheat outstanding for export against contracts that had been concluded was 5.04 lakh tonnes as on 1st April, 1991. On the 11th April 1991, the Government decided to allocate a quota of ten lakh tonnes of wheat for export through STC and MMTC for the financial year 1991-92.

These decisions to export wheat had been taken by the Government in order to generate foreign exchange resources for meeting the critical balance of payments situation.

After the new Government assumed office, the position of availability of wheat was reviewed. It was noticed that the procurement of wheat during April-June, 1991 had declined sharply by about 35 lakh tonnes as compared to the previous year. As a matter of precaution, the Government decided on the 4th September, 1991 to reduce the quota for export to eight lakh tonnes, taking into account the contracts in progress for export of wheat.

In October, 1991, it was estimated that the kharif production of paddy and coarse cereals would decline by about 50 lakh tonnes. It was also noted that there was a disconcerting upward trend in the open market prices of wheat. In order to relieve the pressure on prices, the Government released substantial additional quantities of wheat through the public distribution system, besides open market sale of wheat. Even so, the pressure on prices remained unabated.

The wheat supply position was reviewed on a continuing basis and it was decided in January, 1992 that no further exports of

wheat may be undertaken beyond the firm contractual obligations already entered into by the STC and MMTC

During the financial year 1991-92, a total quantity of 6.72 lakh tonnes of wheat has so far been exported, of which 4.19 lakh tonnes have been exported by MMTC and 2.53 lakh tonnes by STC. The MMTC has exported mostly on Cost and Freight (C&F) basis and STC on Free on Board (FOB) basis.

The total value of the export of 6.72 lakh tonnes of wheat is Rs. 178.44 crores. The exports of MMTC have been mostly around US\$116 per tonne on C&F basis inclusive of freight element of about US\$13 per tonne, while the exports of STC have been mostly around US\$95 per tonne on FOB basis.

II. IMPORT OF WHEAT

Along with the decision to curtail the quota for export of wheat, the Government decided on 15th January, 1992 to make arrangements for import of ten lakh tonnes of wheat. This decision was taken in order to increase the availability of foodgrains and to contain the rise in prices. In taking this decision, the Government exercised abundant caution for ensuring adequate supply of foodgrains through the public distribution system and in the open market.

The Government has explored markets in USA, EEC, Canada and Argentina for import of wheat. No contract for import of wheat has been concluded so far.

As regards prices in international markets, the reported prevailing open market prices of wheat are in the range of US\$130 to US\$170 per tonne FOB in different markets for different grades of wheat. Needless to say, the prices at which wheat is available will be an important factor for con-

sideration before any contract is finally concluded.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur) Sir, I have a very important matter

MR SPEAKER I suppose this is not a supplementary on the statement by the Minister. Is it a different point?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Yes Sir

I gave a notice last Friday but I did not raise the matter because of the assurance given by the hon. Home Minister that he will make a statement or let us know of the position.

I am forced to raise the matter in the House about the situation which is now threatened to be brought about by Shri Subhash Ghising, chairman of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. He has raised an issue with regard to applicability of clause 8 of Indo-Nepal Agreement, 1950. He is propounding the view that Darjeeling hill area does not belong to either India or Nepal. It is reported that he has ordered large scale making of the so-called Gorkhaland flag and he is also getting a so-called National Anthem for Gorkhaland composed. He has threatened to launch a movement on a mass scale on and from 12th March, 1992.

Sir, we had a very troublesome period in Darjeeling. We had earlier also mentioned about this. We had brought out what we felt about, because of the absence of a clear-cut policy or any response on the part of the Government of India.

After a good deal of trouble and even loss of life, a settlement was brought about and

the Hill Council was set up by law—the Legislature Shri Buta Singh is here He had made efforts and an agreement was entered into Again a troublesome situation is arising Shri Ghising is threatening that on and from 12th March, 1992 he will launch a struggle again and he is saying that as a result of that troubles will arise We had approached the hon Home Minister, the Prime Minister, and the Chief Minister of West Bengal had written more than once, we had a meeting with the Home Minister who assured us that he would make a statement *suo motu* on the floor of the House But, Sir, no statement is being made, we are informed not by him directly because last time I talked to him was on Friday last He said, "I am going to make a statement or going to write to the Chief Minister at least" Nothing has happened We understand that Mr Ghising (*Interruptions*) We understand that Mr Ghising was summoned to Delhi, he had a discussion with the Home Minister and the Home Minister, Sir, in spite of his clearest assurance more than once has not either informed the Chief Minister or has written to him Sir, we are smaller fries, we are not informed as to what decision has been taken On the other hand we find from the newspapers that he has just postponed it for a few days and he is waiting for the deadline of 12th March to expire Sir, is this a matter in which the Government should keep total silence? That is the question I wish to put to the Treasury Benches We have our experience, very unhappy and bitter experience Because of the dragging of the feet by the Central Government, the situation has unnecessarily been allowed to be complicated and become complex That is why well in time after this threat was given, a deadline was fixed, it has been brought to the notice of the Central Government saying, 'Please do something' Let us know what some people of India are saying, whether this territory does not belong to India And, Sir, he has sent a telegram to the Prime Minister stating, 'Give a reply within 12th of March, otherwise I would

start an agitation, we shall take our own steps' He has sent a telegram to the King of Nepal—a citizen of India doing that openly, he is writing to Nepal, last time he made a representation to the United Nations, is it just because the Government here wants that the situation in West Bengal should be complicated and trouble should be there for the State Government irrespective of the merits of the controversy just to needle the Government which does not belong to their party and then a situation will be allowed to be created where the unity and integrity of the country is being questioned? Therefore, I demand that this Government should immediately do something in the course of the day I am requesting them, 'Please don't flare the situation further' Let the matter be resolved and let the Government take a decision in a forthright manner and announce it that this type of fissiparous tendency which is against the unity and integrity will not be permitted They must make it absolutely clear I demand that from the Government

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling) Mr Speaker, Sir, as the Member from Darjeeling, I would like to make a couple of points The first point I would like to make is that my friend, Mr Somnath Chatterjee has raised certain issues Some of these are deservedly raised, But he has gone by certain Press reports which we sheer canards There is no move for a separate Gorkha National Anthem There is no move for having a separate flag Mr Subhas Ghising came here last week (*Interruptions*) Wait a minute

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my privilege to represent Darjeeling I had the privilege of being supported by the GNLF, and I know what the situation is Mr Somnath Chatterjee has only spread more canards, canards which have been floated by a section of the Calcutta press I say this with every sense of responsibility

Sir, the situation in the Darjeeling Hills,

I have been cautioning the Government, is being complicated not because of Mr Subhas Ghisingh, but because the West Bengal Government is not implementing the Accord either in its letter or in spirit. But this is not the occasion to go into that matter. I would like to say, Sir, that Mr Subhash Ghisingh came here and met the Home Minister. I was with him when he met at the time. Mr Subhash Ghisingh responded promptly to the Home Minister's call and turned up here at a very short notice. He was rung up on Wednesday evening and he turned up on Thursday and met the Home Minister. I was present. The whole issues was discussed, The Home Minister was fully satisfied. There is no truth in all these canards. Therefore, I would say that the Home Minister (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the whole issue was discussed and Mr Ghisingh is expected to re-visit New Delhi at the instance of the Home Minister for further discussions in the matter. Useful discussions have been held, there is no threat against India's integrity. There is no question of the area of Darjeeling going outside India. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE A charge has been made against me, I have a right to give personal explanation (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT Sir, I would conclude by saying that long before, Mr Somnath Chatterjee or the West Bengal Chief Minister raised the issue. I came to this House in the last Session, drew the attention of the House to the issues raised by Mr Subhash Ghisingh and urged the Government to go into the matter. The Government has gone into the matter and as a result, the Government has held discussion with Mr Ghisingh. Therefore, it does not lie in the mouth of Mr Somnath Chatterjee to say all that he has said (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Please conclude now

SHRI INDER JIT Sir, I conclude by saying that the issue needs to be clarified (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Why don't you be brief please?

SHRI INDER JIT Sir, I conclude by saying that the issue has to be clarified. But let now one make politically motivated statements and spread canards (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE One hon. Member belonging to a particular party

MR SPEAKER Somnathji, I am allowing you, but let me say a few things

Today probably we are going to conclude the debate on the President's Address and there are letters given to me by one or two leaders who want to speak. I think in all fairness to them they should be allowed to speak. That is why I am requesting you to be very brief and conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE I don't mind, Sir, according to his mentor's or his leader's telegram to the Prime Minister of India—I am quoting. I need not say anything except to read it—"We the Gorkhas "

SHRI INDER JIT What is he reading?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE I am reading a telegram sent by Mr Subhash Ghisingh

MR SPEAKER No, No. Just a personal explanation please

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Sir, he says that he expects the Government of

India and the Government of Nepal to take a decision about the legal status of Darjeeling. According to him, this agreement, the Indo-Nepal Agreement, does not stand and on the basis of that the clear implication, according to him, is that Darjeeling has become a non-man's land, it does not belong to India and it does not belong to Nepal, it belongs to Nepal, it belongs to some entity, of which Mr Inderjit is the Adviser. And Sir, it says, "Within sixty days" (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER It is in quotes this will not go on record

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER It will not go within quotes. It will go as your statement.

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE Then remove it, I will make it as my own statement.

Sir, it has been alleged by Mr Subhash Gheising that there is a violation of universal declaration of human rights so far Darjeeling is concerned by the Government of India and that international treaty is being violated so far as Darjeeling is concerned, and he has threatened the Government of India that if within 12th of March they could not make a declaration about the legal status of Darjeeling, then he will take the law into his own hands. This is the position. Therefore, Sir, I repudiate whatever Mr Inderjit has said. To which party he really belongs to, I do not know. Sir, he is operating as if under the cover of the Congress(I), obvious a GNL agent. I am not going to present this. He is imputing political motives. If somebody says that a part of the country does not belong to India, he applauds it. But I shall condemn such an attitude. Does the House support him? (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Please do not make a battle between the two.

SHRI Inderjit Sir, he has made charges against me, he has made accusations against me. I must have my say. I am not applauding him (*Interruptions*). I repudiate everything he has said. I am second to none in standing up for the integrity and the sovereignty of this country. Unlike him and his party, I have not looked abroad for having mentors. His party has mentors abroad, I have no mentors abroad (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You are making a long speech.

SHRI Inderjit Sir, I must have my say. Shri Gheising has sought clarifications and meetings have been held in connection with the clarifications. I do not know what all this noise is about (*Interruptions*)

DR KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) Mr Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members of this House are being deprived of getting any reply from the officers of Orissa State Government.

MR SPEAKER How can you raise that?

DR KARTIKESWAR PATRA Sir, according to protocol, the officers are bound to reply to the letters of Members of Parliament. I have written so many letters regarding the violation of election rule.

MR SPEAKER Such a matter cannot be raised on the floor of the House.

DR KARTIKESWAR PATRA During the last parliamentary elections an officer had violated the election rule. The BDO, Rasgobindpur had issued 20 work orders during the time of elections. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri V C Shukla