

(b) the details of the master plan prepared by State Government with its financial implications; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c). A revised scheme for protection of three vulnerable reaches totalling Rs. 19.15 crores has been received from State Government in January, 1990. After examination these may be considered for inclusion in the State's VIIIth Plan.

#### Thefts in FCI Godowns

433. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns of Food Corporation of India where thefts have taken place during 1989-90;

(b) the details of the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against persons found guilty and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) 44.

(b) A Statement is given below.

(c) Yes, Sir. Suitable action has been initiated against the defaulters where investigations have been completed and responsibility fixed.

#### STATEMENT

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Quantity (MT/Bags)</i>	<i>Value (Rs.)</i>
1	2	3
Wheat	17.00 (179)	40998.95
Rice	42.53 (461)	142332.25
Sugar	89.01 (891)	431740.40
Paddy	14.95 (230)	49657.00
Misc.	—	219203.75
		883932.35

#### Hike in Price of Essential Commodities

434. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of daily essential consumer items like hydrogenerated vanaspati oils, tea, sugar, cereals etc. are reeketing skyhigh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices; and

(d) whether steps are also being taken to provide the items of daily need to the working classes at subsidised rates, if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA)**

(a) There has been a mixed trend in the behaviour of prices of consumer items like cereals, sugar, tea, vanaspati etc during the last three months (between December, 89 and February 1990) The wholesale price indices of rice, wheat, *jowar*, pulses like gram, *masoor*, *urad*, *arhar*, vegetables like potatoes, onions, sugar and *gur* have declined during the last three months ending February, 1990 However, price indices of *bajra*, edible oils like groundnut oil and mustard oil, tea and cotton cloth have recorded some rise during the same period

(b) to (d) The uptrend in the price of groundnut oil may be attributed due to short fall in the production of groundnut and the lean season for mustard seed during this part of the year In the case of tea also rise in prices is attributed to the lower production and pressure of both domestic and export demand

The Government is aware of the rise in prices of some of the essential commodities and is, therefore, reviewing the prices and availability situation of essential commodities at the highest level Appropriate measures both short-term and long-term are being taken These include increase in production of essential commodities which are in short

supply, strengthening the Public Distribution System and monitoring of prices and availability of essential commodities, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures and if necessary, augmenting domestic supplies through imports so as to check any abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities due to demand and supply gap

There is at present no such separate proposal exclusively for the working classes The Government is already making available seven key items of essential commodities namely rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth for distribution under Public Distribution System State Governments are free to include additional items under Public Distribution System

**Sale of Sugar from Super Bazar**

435 SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) the purchase and selling price of sugar by Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

(b) whether there is big margin between the two, and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA)**

(a) Cost price of sugar with Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar and its selling price are as follows

<i>Imported Sugar</i>	<i>Cost Price</i>	<i>Selling Price</i>
Super Bazar	Rs 8 20	Rs 8 55 (Loose)
Kendriya Bhandar	Rs 8 16*	Rs 8 75 (Packed)
<i>Indigenous Sugar</i>		Rs 8 50
Super Bazar	Rs 8 66	Rs 9 00 (Loose)
		Rs 9 20 (Packed)

\*They use their own transport and labour to lift the sugar from FCI Godowns.