

make pulses available at a reasonable price through the public Distribution systems?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). The news-item published in the Hindustan Times of 30th September, 1988 indicated prices of several essential commodities including pulses being sold at Super Bazar, Delhi compared with the prices prevailing in Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The prices of pulses in general have been high and some of them exhibited a rise during September, 1988 due to shortfall in production on account of drought in 1987, lean season, and disruption in supplies on account of floods and heavy rains in some areas.

The Government has taken a number of measures to contain rise in the prices of essential commodities including pulses. The main thrust of the Government policy has been increase to production of various essential commodities particularly of those like pulses which are in short supply. Although pulses are not distributed by the Union Government through Public Distribution System, some State Governments have distributed pulses under their public distribution system. To augment the domestic supplies, Government has allowed import of pulses under Open General Licence and its export has also been banned. From time to time, the Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors have been urged to enforce strictly the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, Storage (Control) Order and other similar legislations against hoarders, block-market-ers and anti-social elements.

#### **Roller Flour Mills in West Bengal**

49. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSOT-TAMBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has rejected all the bids offered by the roller flour mills in West Bengal for buying wheat which was to be auctioned by the

Food Corporation of India last month;

(b) whether the FCI has also decided not to supply wheat to the flour mills in Bengal under any quota system; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) to (c). Allocations to roller flour mills have been stopped since 1st August, 1988. Limited quantities of wheat are being supplied by calling tenders on month to month basis from the roller flour mills only. For the month of August, 1988, no wheat was supplied to the mills in West Bengal because of low price offered by them in the tenders. For the month of September, 1988, tenders received could not be opened because of court orders. For supplies for the month of October, 1988, also the processing of tenders will depend on the orders of the court.

#### **Encouragement to Silk Worm Rearing**

50. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to encourage better silk worm seed production and industrial rearing of silk worms in order to enable the producers of mulberry to secure better price for the cocoons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to supplement the efforts of State Govts. to improve silk worm seed production in the country, the Central Silk Board has established a net work of 24 Seed Production Units under its National Silk Worm Seed Project. Further, the Board has also established 236 Chawki rearing centres