

(b) Against the demand of 390.00 thousand tonnes for the roller flour mills, the Government of Tamil Nadu were allotted 287.78 thousand tonnes wheat during May 1980 to October, 1980, and upto October, 1980 163.9 thousand tonnes of wheat have been lifted by the mills.

Minorities Commission recommendations regarding Text Books

*88. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minorities Commission has made any suggestion as regards replacement in schools and colleges of text books which tend to instil in young minds feelings of animosity between communities by text books which encourage feelings of equality and brotherhood between members of all communities;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been examined by Government; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to implement the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to NCERT's continuing programme of comprehensive review of selected school text books, a review of text-books in History and Languages in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh has been undertaken. It is also proposed to undertake a systematic review of all school text-books from the national integration angle. The procedural details are being worked out.

As regards books in colleges, the UGC has been asked to examine the recommendation and take appropriate action to implement it.

Quality of Wheat despatched from Punjab to Kerala

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*89. SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 29 wagons of wheat sent to Kerala from Punjab by the FCI were of extremely poor quality and unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether it is also a fact that another 33 wagons of wheat have not reached Kerala at all; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) to (c). Out of a special of 62 wagons despatched from Talwandi Bhai in Punjab to Olavakote in Kerala, only 50 wagons have reached various destinations and have been unloaded upto 18-11-1980. Out of these, according to reports received so far, 8,242 bags were found to be containing wheat unfit for human consumption. The remaining wagons are expected to reach shortly. On receipt of the balance wagons, the actual number of bags containing damaged wheat will be assessed. Disciplinary action is being taken against the staff responsible for despatch of damaged wheat in this Special.

Cross Bar Exchange facilities in India

*90. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to go in for large scale introduction of cross bar exchanges in the country;

(b) whether the performance of this system *vis-a-vis* other systems in this country and other countries has been assessed; and

(c) if so, with what results and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) Nearly 100 large crossbar exchanges with a total capacity of about 5.5 lakh lines are already working in the country.

Additional crossbar exchanges are planned to be installed both from indigenous production and by import to meet the growing demands for telephone connections.

(b) This is being done continuously.

(c) There are three major telephone exchange systems in use in the country today namely the manual, strowger and crossbar. Among the three, crossbar system is the more modern and offers several desirable facilities. The performance of crossbar system has been found to be superior to the other two systems. Crossbar exchanges are working in large numbers in other countries including advance countries like the U.S.A. and Japan and a large number of crossbar lines are still being added each year to their existing exchanges.

Production, Demand and Price of Sugar

*91. **SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total production of sugar during last year and the total demand during that period; and

(b) the details regarding the price of open sale of sugar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The sugar production during 1979-80 season was 38.59 lakh tonnes. The demand for sugar varies from time to time in accordance with the prices and availability of sugar together with

price and availability of other sweetening agents namely gur and khand-sari on different occasions. The total off-take of sugar for internal consumption during 1979-80 season was about 5 lakh tonnes.

(b) The month end wholesale sugar prices for the free sale in the important markets of the country during the last three sugar years namely 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80 are shown in the statement laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1407/80].

ग्राम पंचायतों के चुनाव और लोक-तांत्रिक संस्थाओं को मजबूत करने के बारे में मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त

*92. **श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा :** क्या ग्रामीण पुर्ननिर्माण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ग्राम पंचायतों, पंचायत समितियों और जिला परिषदों के लिए चुनाव गत कई वर्षों से नहीं कराये गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार इन लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं को मजबूत करने और सक्रिय बनाने के लिए सभी राज्यों को कुछ मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त जारी करने का है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बालेश्वर राम) : (क) से (घ). अधिकांश राज्यों तथा केन्द्रशासित क्षेत्रों में ग्राम पंचायतों, पंचायत समितियों और जिला परिषदों के चुनाव आमतौर पर निर्धारित समय पर हुए हैं।