

unutilised balance stock of 6 lakh tonnes;

(b) if so, the names of State Governments which have not utilised the allotted quota;

(c) the names of State Governments who demanded more quota for the States; and

(d) the names of States which demanded supply of their quota in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (d). On 1st April 1980, the unutilised balance of foodgrains with the States/Union Territories from the earlier year was about 7 lakh tonnes. 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were allocated to the States/Union Territories under the Food for Work Programme in April, 1980. Out of the total available quantity of 17 lakh tonnes till end of September, 1980, the utilisation reported so far from different States/Union Territories is 9.56 lakh tonnes. No State except Maharashtra has reported utilisation of the entire available quantity of foodgrains under the programme.

All State Governments/Union Territories except Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Chandigarh have demanded more foodgrains than allocated to them.

Revision in Allocation of Foodgrains under Food for Work Programme

*12. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to State:

(a) Whether Government have recently revised the foodgrain allocations to the States for the Food for Work Programme;

(b) if so, the full facts in regard to such revisions State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such revisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c). No revision has been made but in the last month an additional allocation of 4 lakh tonnes has been made among the different States and the Union Territories. A statement showing this allocation is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Quantities of Foodgrains of 4 lakh metric tonnes allocated to States/

Unions

Territories

Sl. No.	State/UT	Quantity of foodgrains (Metric tonnes)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42,000
2.	Assam	8,000
3.	Bihar	54,000
4.	Gujarat	12,500
5.	Haryana	3,500
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2,500
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,500
8.	Karnataka	18,500
9.	Kerala	18,000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	29,500
11.	Maharashtra	32,500
12.	Manipur	500
13.	Meghalaya	500
14.	Nagaland	400
15.	Orissa	18,500
16.	Punjab	5,500
17.	Rajasthan	10,400
18.	Sikkim	250
19.	Tamil Nadu	33,000
20.	Tripura	1,250
21.	Uttar Pradesh	74,500
22.	West Bengal	30,000
UNION TERRITORIES		
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	300
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	300
25.	Mizoram	300
26.	Pondicherry	300
Total		4,00,000

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last *Economic Survey*—for the year 1979-80—it has been stated:

“Within a short period, the Food for Work Programme has developed into an effective instrument of employment generation and rural development. The Programme is expected to be strengthened and expanded on a big scale as it has the potential to become a focal programme for generation of rural employment in the coming years.”

This is the commitment of this Government as they say in their last *Economic Survey*. The Hon. Minister says that there has been no demand from the States for extra allocation. But, would he kindly tell us whether the Central Government has supplied the State Governments foodgrains upto the allotted quantity? I would like to give some figures of allotment between March and May of this year.

U.P.	2.45 lakhs tonnes.
M.P.	2.24 lakhs tonnes.
Bihar	3.15 lakhs tonnes.
Rajasthan	1.30 lakhs tonnes.

West Bengal has been given only 20,000 tonnes in May. Since then not a single grain of food has been allotted for this programme. (*Interruptions*). Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there has been a fair deal in the matter. They say that this food for work programme will be expanded on a big scale because of the great potential for rural development and generation of rural employment. I want to know whether Government would keep its commitments to the State Governments, particularly, to the Government of West Bengal and see that the foodgrains are made available unless the objective is to scuttle it and put the people of West Bengal into difficulties. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the Government going to do?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): Sir, I refute the statement made by my hon. friend when he is trying to say that there has been some discrimination against West Bengal Government exercised by the Central Government. This is absolutely baseless. (*Interruptions*) If at all, the Government has been trying to show favour to West Bengal on the contrary. (*Interruptions*) West Bengal Government was allocated 2.44 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains in the year 1979-80. Out of that, there was a carry over of 95,000 tonnes as on 1st April this year. That was out of the allocation made during the previous year. After that, we released 20,000 tonnes more and then again 30,000 tonnes recently after the Chief Minister of West Bengal saw me and the Central Government was assured that its guidelines would be implemented and accepted. The West Bengal Government has been showing figures different from what the Central Government has in the matter of utilisation of foodgrains allotted. The West Bengal Chief Minister was requested to send his officers to Delhi to remove the discrepancies if any. Those figures were synchronised and the matter was settled. After that the West Bengal Government assured us that as in every other State in India, the District Magistrate/Collector would be the Convener of this Steering Committee at the district level. That was one point which they had not been accepting as our Guidelines. After that, we immediately released 30,000 tonnes to West Bengal. Now, West Bengal Government has a carryover of 95,000 tonnes of foodgrains. 50,000 tonnes more have been released during this year. So, they have now a total of 1.45 lakhs tonnes. Out of that, so far, we have received the utilisation certificates in respect of a quantity of only 45,188 tonnes. (*Interruptions*) Our rules provide that further releases would be made only after the utilisation certificate upto the extent of 80 per cent of the quantity released

has been received. The utilisation certificates received showed much less than 50 per cent of the foodgrains as having been utilised. That is, out of 1.44 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains released only 45,000 and odd tonnes more have, so far, been certified by the West Bengal Government as having been utilised. Now, this is a concession we have made in case of West Bengal. Without receiving utilisation certificates of at least 50 per cent of the foodgrains, we have released to them 30,000 tonnes. What more do you want from us?

So far as the allegation of discrimination is concerned I would like to assure the House that the Minister or for that matter anybody here at the Centre cannot make any difference in allocations according to the formulae that has been framed in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. Seventy-five per cent of the allocation should go on the basis of marginal farmers and landless families in the State and twenty-five per cent is for the families below the poverty line in a State. Now everything is worked out on that formulae. We cannot make any difference in case of any State. It is only when a State Government does not accept our guidelines or does not furnish the utilisation certificates in time that sometimes foodgrains cannot be released but all that allocation is kept in reserve for the State and it cannot be allocated to anybody else even if it is not given to that State for some time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:

Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of great importance. I feel that the House should know that the figures given by the hon'ble Minister are all wrong and he knows that these are all wrong. I charge the Minister of misleading the House.

Sir, the impression he was given to the House is that the hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal came and with folded hands asked for mercy from him and he has been kind enough to

show mercy. The Chief Minister had written to the hon'ble Minister, Shri Rao Birendra Singh on 31st October, 1980 in which he has referred to the fact that the Secretary of his Ministry vide his letter dated 3rd June, 1980 has admitted that upto 64 per cent utilisation has been given to the Central Government. Sixty-four per cent utilisation has been admitted by his own Secretary in the letter dated 3rd June, 1980. And on the figures supplied upto August, 1980 the amount comes to 80 per cent of the total quantity given. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what percentage of utilisation certificates have been given by other States before the quantities that have been mentioned, have been released to them. Secondly, what are the steering committees which have been formed in those States and the composition of those steering committees? Sir, if he thinks that he can subjugate West Bengal by denying them foodgrains then he is living in a fools' paradise. (Interruptions) Whether he will stop playing politics with food, I would like to know?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:

Sir, I am very much pained at what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said.

First of all, he has tried to put words into my mouth which I never said. I never said that the West Bengal Chief Minister came with folded hands. I have all the respects for the West Bengal Chief Minister, as much as for any other Chief Minister, in any State of the country. It was his right. He came and saw me and he

put a demand. And it was his right to ask for foodgrains which were his share for the State. And we went in certain matters. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, to my mind, is not doing any thing to improve relations between Central Government and West Bengal. It is very unfortunate, Sir. We, on our part, are very keen that every State should be satisfied and must feel being properly looked after by the Central Government without any discrimination, least of all, in the matter of foodgrains. The figure that I gave was upto the end of August, 45,000. That figure was upto the end of August, as I said. I still accept the challenge of Mr. Somnath Chatterjee.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Chief Ministers' Conference

*4. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers' Conference was convened by the Union Agriculture Minister at New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the gist of the discussions held and decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). A conference of the Chief

Ministers of important wheat producing and wheat consuming States was convened on 24th October, 1980 to discuss the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission on the price policy for wheat and barley for the 1980-81 crop season. While inviting the participating Chief Ministers and Ministers to give their views on the procurement/support prices for wheat and barley recommended by the A.P.C., the Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction stressed the need for building up a strong bufferstock of at least 20 million tonnes of foodgrains aiming at procurement of about 9 million tonnes of wheat and taking an overall balanced view with due regard to the interests of the producers and the consumers. Views of the participants were also sought in regard to issue prices of wheat. The Minister added that the recommendations of the A.P.C., the views expressed at the conference and the views of Planning Commission and other concerned Ministries would all be placed before the Cabinet for taking a final decision in regard to fixation of procurement/support prices of wheat and barley. The Chief Ministers/Ministers of the participating States mostly suggested the fixation of procurement price of wheat in the range of Rs. 127 and Rs. 150 per quintal and the minimum support price of barley in the range of Rs. 95 and Rs. 140 per quintal. Briefly, the views of State Governments on procurement/support prices of wheat and barley and issue price of wheat are as under: