

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT This is a matter of national security There was a question on purchase of arms, and I wanted to put a supplementary You did not allow me then to raise one supplementary You do not allow me now to raise one matter in the Zero Hour I do not understand whether it is a**
(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER If you do not withdraw from the House, I am going to name you This is too much Now all the Members in the House are seeing as to how this gentleman is behaving He is asking questions at the time of supplementary He is raising the matters now also Mis behaving in this manner This is not an affront to Shwrajpatil This is an affront to the Chair This is an affront to the House Now, if you do not behave properly next time, I am warning you that I will take action against you

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT Now, I am walking out of the House *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER Yes you do that

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT **: *(Interruptions)*

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) Sir, this remark should not be kept on the record
(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER This gentleman is behaving like this all the time I have been watching him and he is behaving like this If he is not behaving in the House properly and if the House is not taking note of it, I will be compelled to take note of it

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) Mr Speaker, Sir, whatever he has said may be expunged since he has pointed out that he will take this matter to the Privileges Committee

[English]

MR SPEAKER Leave it He does not understand what he is saying We will explain to him later on

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER You cannot take a matter against the Speaker in the Privileges Committee If he does not understand, we do not have to take note of it And on the floor of the House, I will ask the parliamentary Affairs Minister to warn him

Yes, Mr Chidambaram

12.13 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Request of Cuba for sale of wheat and rice

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) The Government of Cuba had approached the Government of India in December, 1991 for supply of five lakh tonnes of wheat and one lakh tonnes of rice on deferred payment basis The matter was discussed with a Cuban delegation which visited India in February, 1992 The Cuban delegation expressed its inability to pay for the wheat and rice either on a cash basis or

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair

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