

[12 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether there are prospects of exporting ten million tonnes of wheat during 2002-2003;

(c) whether this has greatly affected the US chances of exporting wheat;

(d) if so, whether the countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and West Asia have given preference to the Indian wheat than the US; and

(e) if so, what are the efforts being made to export more wheat to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not possible to assess the prospects of exporting wheat during 2002-03 as the same would be a function of various factors including the international demand and supply situation. For the same reasons, it is also not possible to assess the impact this would have on US's chances of exporting wheat.

(d) Wheat has been exported from India to Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and West Asia. Information about US wheat exports to these countries is not available.

(e) Wheat is not being directly exported by the Government of India. It has authorised the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to offer wheat from the Central Pool to interested parties for the purpose of export. The quantitative restrictions on the export of wheat have been lifted.

FDI in food sector

2382. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has opposed the proposal for FDI in food sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent Government have agreed to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains, approved by the Government, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed for developing and operating bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities in the country.

PDS Control Order, 2001

†2383. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Distribution System Control Order, 2001 was brought to protect interests of economically weaker sections of the society;

(b) the details of officers/employees punished under the provisions of this order, State-wise; and

(c) whether the benefits of the provisions of Order have reached such people throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Figures are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Reports received from the State Governments/UTs indicate that the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001 have benefited the card holders under the TPDS.

BPL people in Uttaranchal

†2384. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.