

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity (owned and hired) of 24.90 million tonnes against a stock holding of 19.4 million tonnes as on 1.2.2000 which is considered to be adequate. This includes open CAP Storage to the extent of 3.3 million tonnes for wheat and paddy stocks, only.

(c) and (d) The Government is in the process of formulating a National Policy wherein private sector participation would be sought and encouraged for development of infrastructure for handling storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country.

**Increase in Foodgrains Allocation to Karnataka**

905. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sought increase in the allocation of foodgrains to the below poverty line families under PDS;

(b) if so, the details of the increase sought;

(c) the total number of below poverty line families identified by Government; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken on the request of Karnataka Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has sought increase in the entitlement of BPL families to 25 kgs. of foodgrains per family per month. It has been requested that the number of BPL families identified by State Government should be accepted by Government of India.

(c) and (d) Government of Karnataka has identified 65 lakh families below poverty line as reported by the State Government. Under the TPDS, identification of BPL families is done by State Government. However, for allotment of foodgrains, the overall number of BPL families identified by State Government are limited

to the estimates derived by Planning Commission based on the Expert Group methodology. Government of India has recently announced increase in BPL allocation from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month in the Budget presented in the Parliament for the financial year 2000-2001.

**Strengthening of Consumer Protection Mechanism**

†906. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend Central assistance to strengthen the consumer protection mechanism under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the share of Maharashtra therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c), Does not arise.

**Import and Storage of Wheat**

907. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for importing wheat despite its substantial production in the country;

(b) whether storage facility is adequate; if so, the arrangements made for its maintenance; and

(c) if not, who is responsible for wastage of thousand tones of wheat and the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) There has been no import of wheat on

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†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.