

Damage to Foodgrains

4165. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of foodgrains damaged in the country during the last three years and so far in 1998;

(b) the reasons for the losses; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to save the foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of foodgrains transferred from sound to damage account during storage with the Central Storage agencies during the last three years and so far in 1998 and value thereof are as under:

Year	Qty. in MTs	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-%	32,719	1601.21
1996-97	55,678	2435.51
1997-98*	75,689	
1998-99*	10,987	
(as on 30th. June, 1998)		

*Provisional-Quantity actually damaged and value thereof yet to be assessed.

(b) In spite of best possible care taken for proper storage and preservation of foodgrains, some damage to foodgrains occur due to natural calamities like floods, cyclone, etc. either during storage or in transit. Some damage may also occur during storage of foodgrains under Covered And Plinth (CAP) where there is a possibility of covers being blown off due to high velocity of wind etc.

(c) Following measures are taken by the storage agencies for proper preservation of foodgrain stocks;

(i) Storage is undertaken mostly in godowns constructed on scientific lines which are rodent and damp proof.

(ii) The foodgrains stocks are stored in scientific manner and regular prophylactic and curative treatments (spraying and fumigation) are undertaken to control stored grains pests.

(iii) The stocks are stored on appropriate dunnage material like wooden crates, poly diets etc. and

when stored under CAP, covered with specially fabricated polythene covers which are water proof.

(iv) Nylon ropes, cover tops and monofilaments nets are used for proper lashing of polythene covers to prevent damage due to ballooning of covers caused by high velocity wind.

(v) The stocks are subjected to regular inspection by trained quality control staff and issued on "first-in-first-out" (FIFO) basis.

Proposal to Import Sugar on Levy Account

4166. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import sugar on the levy account;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for importing sugar despite a surplus stock;

(c) what is the landed cost of this imported sugar;

(d) whether it is a fact that domestic mills are offering stocks for PD,S at prices lower than the landed imported price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (e): In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Fall in Production of Edible Oils

4167. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of edible oils fell from 250 lakh tonnes in 1996-97 to 237 lakh tonnes in 1997-98;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the shortfall; and-

(c) the measures being taken to contain the recent spurt in the price of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The production of edible oilseeds, not edible oils, fell from 249.80 lakh MTs in 1996-97 to 236.89 lakh Mts in 1997-98

(b) Some of the steps taken/being taken to augment the production of oilseeds, and hence of edible oils, to meet the shortfall, are, providing essential assistance through the oilseeds production programme (OPP) of the Government of India to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments, organising demonstration of advanced technology, assistance for oil palm development,

better incentives to proaucers through fixation of minimum support price of major oilseeds etc.

(c) The important measures taken by the Government to contain the recent spurt in the price of edible oils are;

(i) Import of all edible oils barring coconut oil, palm kernel oil RBD palm oil and RBD palm stearing continue to be on OGL list.

(ii) Basic import duty of edible oils on OGL list has been reduced from 20% to 10% (the 5% surcharge remaining unchanged).

(iii) STC has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh MT of RBD palmolein for supply through PDS during August-November' 98.

(iv) Government has decided to allow import of one million MT of soyabean.

(v) To improve the availability of mustard oil for direct consumption, the use of expeller mustard oil in vanaspati has been reduced from 30% to 10% maximum

Financial Assistance to Sugar Mills from Sugar Development Fund

4168. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sugar mills which have received financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/expansion during each of the last three years. State-wise;

(b) the names of the mills which could not utilise the assistance, mill-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government against such sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The names of Sugar Mills which have been sanctioned financial assistance from the