

domestic prices showed a sharp rising trend. The domestic production of sugar in the 1994-95 and 1995-96 Sugar Seasons had been relatively high. Also, the prevailing international and domestic prices of sugar did not result in any significant imports of sugar in 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 Sugar Seasons. The domestic production has been below the country's requirement in the 1996-97 and 1997-98 Sugar Seasons. Moderate imports of sugar have come in during the 1997-98 Sugar Season, which have helped in moderating the rising prices for sugar have been sharply declining, and in order to ensure that, in future, the domestic industry is not adversely affected by cheap imports, with effect from 28.4.98 Ministry of Finance has notified the imposition of an Import duty. The free sale prices of sugar in 1996-97 and 1997-98 Sugar Seasons have maintained a level which yielded the Sugar Industry reasonable profits.

Import of Wheat

309. SHRI N.R. DASARI:

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat to meet the shortfall in the production during the current year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the fall in the production and the details of proposed import of wheat, country-wise alongwith rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that the production of wheat during the current Rabi Season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against the production of 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government has, therefore, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat, of which STC has finalised contracts for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia @US\$ 142.50 PMT FOB during 1998-99.

Procurement and Supply of Wheat and Rice

310. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to sell the wheat and rice procured by FCI within the State from where it is purchased;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to ensure the supply of rice and wheat through PDS in States which are facing foodgrain shortage?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The monthly quotas of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under TPDS are more or less fixed, and are repeated month after month. Any demand of States/UTs. for additional allocation over and above TPDS quotas is considered by Central Government on the basis of past lifting of foodgrains in the State/UTs and availability of foodgrains stocks in the Central Pool. As far as possible, the requests for additional allocations are considered favourably.

विदेश से गेहूँ का आयात

311. श्री राघवजी:

श्री सीताराम केसरी:

क्या जाघ और उपभोक्ता मापले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने 1998 में विभिन्न देशों से गेहूँ आयात करने के सौदे किये हैं, यदि हाँ, तो ऐसे सौदों-की मात्रा, दरों तथा निबंधन और शर्तों सहित ऐसे देशों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं;

(ख) गेहूँ के आयात करने के क्या कारण हैं और किस स्तर पर यह निर्णय लिया गया था;

(ग) उक्त गेहूँ कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में किस-किस तारीख को भारत के बंदरगाहों पर पहुँचना तय हुआ है; और

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में बंदरगाहों की क्षमता का आकलन भी किया गया है; और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्याख्या क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। बुआई मौसम के दौरान असांमयिक वर्षा के कारण कृषि मंत्रालय शुरू में यह अनुमान लगाया था कि वर्तमान नवी मौसम के दौरान गेहूँ का उत्पादन 64.51 मिलियन टन होने की संभावना है जबकि पिछले वर्ष 69.27 मिलियन टन गेहूँ का उत्पादन हुआ था। अतः सरकार ने 1998-99 के दौरान 20 लाख टन तक गेहूँ का आयात करने का निर्णय किया है और राज्य व्यापार निगम ने आस्ट्रेलिया से 142.50 अमरीकी डालर की दर पर जहाँज तक निम्नभार 15 लाख टन गेहूँ का आयात करने के लिए ठेके को अन्तिम रूप दे दिया है।

(ग) जून, 1998 तक 10.50 लाख टन गेहूँ की मात्रा पहुँचाना का अनुमान है। इसमें से 25.5.98 की स्थिति के अनुसार 3.91 लाख टन गेहूँ की मात्रा भारतीय बन्दरगाहों पर पहुँच चुकी है। शेष मात्रा के अक्टूबर, 1998 के अन्त तक पहुँचने की संभावना है।

(घ) जी, हां। सचिव (खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति) की अध्यक्षता में एक कार्यदल गठित किया गया था जो समय-समय पर पत्तन श्रमताओं का आकलन करने सहित गेहूँ के आयात से संबंधित परिचालन संबंधी सभी मामलों का समन्वय करता है। मुख्य चार्टरिंग नियंत्रक, जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय भी इस कार्यदल के एक सदस्य हैं।

Foodgrains Damaged in the FCI Godowns

312. MISS SAROJ KHAPARADE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantial quantity of foodgrains are damaged due to cut and torn bags in the godowns of FCI in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the foodgrains damaged due to that factor during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER

AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No damage to foodgrains is reported in the godowns of FCI due to cut and torn bags.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The grains spoiled due to cut and torn condition of the bags are not allowed to get damaged. The same are filled in the bags after cleaning wherever necessary and the torn bags are stitched/repaired on the spot before further handling.

IAS Officers on Deputation in FCI

313. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.A.S. officials working in F.C.I. and since when each has been working there;

(b) the normal term for I.S.A. officials' on deputation in Public Sector Undertakings and how many of them have crossed that term and the reasons for extending the period of their posting in F.C.I.; and

(c) by when such officials are proposed to be sent back to their parent cadre; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Presently, there are eleven (11) IAS officials on deputation with the Food Corporation of India. The details are as per Statement (see below).

(b) and (c) : The normal term of deputation of I.A.S. officials to FCI is as follows:—

For Chairman — 3 years

For Managing Director — 2 years

For Zonal Manager/S.R.M. — 5 years

For Joint Managers — 3 years

None of the officers, presently working in FCI, has been granted any extension of deputation tenure.