

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Hike in Wheat Prices

870. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of wheat meant for sale in the open market has been considerably hiked by Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this measures will not affect those people who are living below the poverty line and also increase their number considerably as most of the poor people are not having ration cards and depend more or less on wheat being sold in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The open sale of wheat is undertaken by the Government through Food Corporation of India, as and when considered necessary, in order to exert healthy influence on the open market prices of wheat without jeopardising Public Distribution System. Keeping in view the wide gap in the market prices vis-a-vis open sale prices notified by the Government, to neutralise the freight element paid by Food Corporation of India in moving wheat from procuring areas to consuming areas and to reduce the subsidy burden in the open sale and to discourage the traders from making undue profit, the Government decided to increase the open sale prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997. The prices are now in the range of Rs. 4900/- per MT in Chandigarh to Rs. 7900/- per MT in Thiruvananthapuram.

(c) No Sir, the Public Distribution System is being streamlined with its focus on the poor who shall be issued foodgrains at specially subsidised price as per the guidelines issued for the Targeted Public Distribution System. The State Governments are required to identify

the beneficiaries who live below the poverty line, issue special ration cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner.

Vacant Posts of Members in Consumer Fora Resulting in Accumulation of Pending Cases

871. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consumer fora in the country, State-wise, set up during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the posts of members are lying vacant in such fora all across the country resulting into accumulation of pending cases;

(c) if so, the details available in this regard in respect of States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and

(d) the number of pending cases State-wise so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (d) The details regarding the State-wise total number of consumer fora set up since inception along with the total number of pending cases are given in the enclosed statement. (*See below*).

(b) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 the responsibility for appointing the members in District Fora, rests with the State Governments. Accordingly States/UTs appoint members as and when vacancies arise.

Piling up of cases in consumer courts occur not only due to vacant posts of members but also due to a number of other reasons like frequent adjournments, lack of proper infrastructure facilities at the courts etc.

(c) As per the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, out of 9 District Fora set up during last two years, 5 District Fora are yet to begin functioning as the post of

members are vacant. In Bihar, 5 posts of Chairman/Members are vacant in the 9 District Consumer Fora set up during last two years.

Statement			
State/UT	Number of District Fora	Pending Cases	At the End of
Andhra Pradesh	23	12937	9/96
Arunachal Pradesh	12	34	10/96
Assam	23	826	4/96
Bihar	55	10503	10/96
Goa	2	593	10/96
Gujarat	20	16148	9/96
Haryana	16	10149	9/96
Himachal Pradesh	12	1077	9/96
Jammu & Kashmir	2	1045	8/96
Karnataka	20	11419	8/96
Kerala	14	5033	10/96
Madhya Pradesh	45	11510	12/95
Maharashtra	31	17040	9/96
Manipur	8	10	9/96
Meghalaya	7	38	6/96
Mizoram	3	12	11/96
Nagaland	7	7	9/94
Orissa	31	2065	9/96
Punjab	13	3039	9/96
Rajasthan	32	10618	9/96
Sikkim	4	7	10/96
Tamil Nadu	24	5008	9/96
Tripura	3	81	9/96
Uttar Pradesh	72	49821	8/96
West Bengal	19	15006	9/96
Andaman & Nicobar	2	12	9/96
Chandigarh	1	3527	6/96
D & N Haveli	1	10	8/96
Daman & Diu	2	16	9/96
Delhi	2	9710	10/96
Lakshadweep	1	2	11/96
Pondicherry	1	72	11/96
TOTAL	508	197375	

Foodgrains supplied to Punjab for Border Areas

872. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foodgrains and the quantity thereof that have been allotted to the State of Punjab for public distribution in border areas during the last three years till date;

(b) the total quantity of foodgrains which have actually been made available in these areas for distribution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the joint responsibility of implementing the Public Distribution System, Central Government makes bulk allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs. Its distribution to different sections of people in different areas in State is done by respective State Government/UT Administration. The total quantities allocated to Punjab during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

(In '000 MT)		
YEAR	WHEAT	Allocation of RICE
1994-95	210.00	17.25
1995-96	155.00	16.65
1996-97	121.00	18.00

आपदाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों के लिए आवंटित किए गए खाद्यान्न

873. श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को ऐसी कोई शिकायत मिली है कि कुछ राशियों में आपदाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों के लिए जो चावल और खाद्यान्न आवंटित किए गए थे वे जनता तक नहीं पहुंचे हैं और उन्हें बीच रास्ते में ही बेच दिया गया;