

(d) and (e) Food Corporation of India tentatively proposes to construct additional capacity 10 lakh tonnes for storage of foodgrains during VIII Five Year Plan (1992-97). Besides, the Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations have plans to construct 2 lakh tonnes each of foodgrains storage capacity during the plan period.

Sugar Price Rise

703. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL :

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was unprecedented rise in the price of sugar in the country recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the present price level of sugar both at whole sale and retail level in various parts of the country and its comparison with the price prevailing in July, 1990; and

(d) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the price of sugar to that of July, 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

(SHRI KALP NATH RAD) : (a) The wholesale price index of sugar as on 26th June 93 showed an increase of 13.5% over the index as on 27th June '92.

(b) Owing to the increase in the retail issue price of levy sugar from Rs. 6.90 to Rs. 8.30 per Kg. w.e.f. 17-2-1993, necessitated on account of the increase in the Statutory Minimum Price, conversion cost, distribution cost, etc. and also due to the expected shortfall in sugar production in this season as well as the anticipated lower level of production during the next season, the price of sugar in the open market had begun to show an increasing trend from March 1993 which continued during April-May 1993. However, with appropriate releases, the prices have now been stabilised to some extent.

(c) Statement showing the comparative average wholesale and retail prices of sugar (S-30 grade) in the five principal markets of the country, during July 1993 and July 1990 is attached (See below).

(d) To check the rise in sugar price in the open market and to maintain them at a reasonable level, the following measures have been initiated :—

(i) Adequate quantities of freesale sugar have been released each month.

(ii) Sugar mills have been directed to ensure sale/despatch of 47.5% of their monthly quota during each fortnight.

(iii) The State Governments have been requested to strictly enforce the various regulatory orders pertaining to sugar dealers in respect of stock holding limits, turnover of stocks by traders within the prescribed time limit, sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler etc. They have also been requested to carry out periodical surprise raids to check unlawful trade practices.

Statement

| S. Market No. | Wholesale | (Rs./QTL) | Retail | (Rs./KG.) |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | July 93 | July 90 | July 93 | July 90 |
| 1. Delhi | 981.66 | 826.25 | 10.50 | 8.58 |
| 2. Kanpur | 1040.00 | 820.00 | 10.75 | 8.40 |
| 3. Calcutta | 1123.33 | 865.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 |
| 4. Bombay | 1038.33 | 796.00 | 11.35 | 8.55 |
| 5. Madras | 1000.65 | 777.00 | 10.35 | 8.20 |

Buffer stock of wheat and rice

704. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2179 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether there has been improvement in the procurement position of wheat and rice and at the same time there is low off-take from the buffer stock of wheat and rice; if so the manner in which the buffer stock is proposed to be managed;

(b) what is the likely impact of increased buffer stock on food subsidy ; and

(c) the details of steps taken to increase off-take of foodgrains from the buffer stock ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been improvement in the procurement of wheat and rice during the current procurement seasons. Low offtake of the foodgrains (both wheat and rice) has been due to easy availability of foodgrains in the open market.

The stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1-7-93 are 92.73 lakh Metric Tonnes and 148.89 lakh Metric Tonnes respectively against the minimum stocks of 92.0 lakh Metric Tonnes of rice and 131.0 lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat prescribed to be maintained as per buffer stocking policy. The excess in stocks are only 18.62 lakh tonnes and the Government incur holding expenses. This temporary excess will come down when offtake increases by additional allocations and better movement.

Procurement of Wheat and Rice

705. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of wheat and rice this year is the highest;

(b) if so, what are the procurement figures for wheat and rice separately for the year 1992-93;

(c) whether Government are considering to export wheat and rice during the year 1993-94; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard