

Functioning of FCI in Assam

4089. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India in Assam is not working/functioning satisfactorily, and a large number of corruption cases have been detected ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Food Corporation of India have reported that it is not correct their Regional Office in Assam is not working/functioning well and that a large number of corruption cases have been detected. However, irregularities in 2 specific cases have come to notice which were investigated.

(b) and (c) (i) On receipt of complaints/newspaper reports in June, 1992 about pilferage of foodgrains at Ramnagar depot, the matter was investigated. Based on the preliminary investigations and physical verification of stocks, responsibility for losses was fixed on 16 officers/officials. Out of these, major penalty proceedings have been initiated in 6 cases and minor penalty proceedings in 1 case. In 1 case, minor penalty has been imposed. In the remaining cases, necessary action has been initiated.

(ii) A complaint was received against officers/officials of District Office, Kokrajhar (Assam) alleging irregularities in the appointment of Handling and Transport Contractor at high rates. The matter was investigated and based on the investigation report, the officers/officials concerned who had not processed the case properly have been cautioned to be more careful in future.

आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

4090. श्री० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान आवश्यक उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में हुई वृद्धि की तुलना में वर्ष 1993-94 में अधिक वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो गत वर्षों की तुलना में वर्ष 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान गेहूँ, चावल, चाय और चीनी के मूल्यों में क्रमशः कितने-कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि आवश्यक उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में हुई वृद्धि की तुलना में सामान्य मुद्रास्फीति की दर में कम वृद्धि हुई है;

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने इन आवश्यक उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए कोई कदम उठाये थे; और

(च) यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में उठाये गये कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) :

(क) से (घ) 1992-93 की तुलना में 1993-94 के दौरान चावल, गेहूँ, दालें, चीनी और चाय के शोक मूल्यों के सूचकांकों में प्रतिशत विभिन्नता/मुद्रास्फीति की वार्षिक दर की स्थिति नीचे दी गई है :—

वस्तु	प्रतिशत विभिन्नता/बिन्दु प्रति बिन्दु मुद्रास्फीति की वार्षिक दर	
	1993-94	1992-93
चावल	9.3	—0.2
गेहूँ	18.5	2.7
चीनी	18.1	13.9
चाय	11.9	30.8
दालें		
चना	48.7	23.9
अरहर	12.1	—4.2
मूंग	22.9	—0.8
यसूर	17.0	—5.1
उड़द	33.3	—15.2

(ङ) और (च) खुले बाजार में गेहूँ और चावल की कीमतों की उपयुक्त स्तर पर बनाए रखने के उद्देश्य से भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने केन्द्रीय पूल से गेहूँ और चावल की खुले बाजार में बिक्री करने का कार्य शुरू किया है। इसका इन वस्तुओं की खुले बाजार में कीमतों पर संतुलित प्रभाव पड़ा है। नागरिक पूति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय के अधीन गठित अन्तर-मंत्रालयीय समिति 12 चुनिंदा आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतों, उपलब्धता, कमी, आदि, यदि कोई होती है, की नियमित आधार पर समीक्षा करती है। राज्य सरकारों से अनुरोध

किया गया है कि वे जमाखोरों, कालाबाजारियों और अनुचित व्यापार तरीकों से काम करने वालों के विरुद्ध सख्त कार्रवाई करें।

Procurement of Levy Rice

4091. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the massive procurement of levy rice has contributed substantially to the huge food subsidy bill for the year 1993-94;

(b) if so, what are the details of facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the levy prices for the year 1993-94 of superfine varieties have been fixed at Rs. 620.90 per quintal in Punjab and Rs. 616.00 per quintal in Haryana whereas the open market prices have often dipped way below this in the course of the year; and

(d) if so, what are the details of rice and wheat procured by Food Corporation of India during the year 1993-94 (State-wise) and what will be its target for the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) The food subsidy borne by the Government during 1993-94 (RE) is Rs. 5537 crores with consumer subsidy on rice at Rs. 179.30 per quintal as compared to Rs. 2785 crores with consumer subsidy on rice at Rs. 142.87 per quintal for the previous year 1992-93.

(c) Procurement prices of common, fine and superfine varieties of levy rice for the marketing season 1993-94 in respect of Punjab and Haryana are as under :—

(Rs. per quintal)			
	Common	Fine	Superfine
Punjab .	533.40	582.90	620.90
Haryana .	529.20	578.25	616.00

Open market prices are dependant on the relative position of overall supply and demand of foodgrains in the market.

(d) The procurement of wheat and paddy for Central Pool under price support scheme being totally voluntary, and the procurement of levy rice from millers/traders being dependant on quantum of paddy purchased by them, no targets, as such, can be fixed for procurement of wheat and rice.

A Statement showing quantities of rice and wheat procured for Central Pool during 1993-94 marketing season is attached.

Statement

Quantities of Rice and Wheat procured by Food Corporation of India and State Procuring Agencies for Central Pool during 1993-94 Marketing Season

Sr. No.	States	Procurement	
		1993-94 Marketing season	
		Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)	Wheat
1	Andhra Pradesh	29.00	—
2	Assam . . .	0.04	—
3	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
4	Bihar . . .	0.03	—
5	Haryana . . .	12.42	34.54
6	Himachal Pradesh	—	0.01
7	Karnataka . .	1.32	—
8	Kerala . . .	—	—
9	Madhya Pradesh	7.71	2.42
10	Maharashtra .	0.75	—
11	Orissa . . .	3.17	—
12	Punjab . . .	54.52	64.94
13	Rajasthan . .	0.21	4.96
14	Uttar Pradesh .	12.96	21.28
15	West Bengal .	1.33	—
16	Chandigarh .	0.25	Neg.
17	Delhi . . .	0.05	0.20
18	Pondicherry .	0.02	—
TOTAL :		123.78	128.35

Neg. : Below 500 tonnes.

Rice : Figures as on 18-4-1994.

Wheat : For whole marketing season 1993-94.

Fraudulent transaction in the Import of Sugar

4092. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newswitem which appeared in the 'Observer' of 21st March, 1994 that opening up of the Indian Sugar Market for imports has led to the emergence of a grey market with many fraudulent international operators;

(b) If so, what are the details in this regard;