

and the number in respect of which final replies were sent, is as follows :

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
No. of letters received	410	353	489
No. of letters acknowledged	360	314	456
No. of letters finally replied to :	367	333	458

(d) Each reference received from the Member of Parliament is replied to, keeping in view the policies of the Government, merit of the case and other relevant factors.

Discriminative Price Fixation Policy of Wheat by Food Corporation of India

4079. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHAN-DRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Flour Mill Owners Association of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra have represented against the discriminative price fixation policy of wheat which is supplied by Food Corporation of India godowns;

(b) whether it is a fact that price difference between Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh is discriminative inspite of the fact that they are euidistant from Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to a difference of Rs. 45 per Quintal in the prices between Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the finished product is dumped in the Vidarbha markets by Flour Mill Owners of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh at a price which is lower than the price of raw material available to the Mill Owners of Maharashtra;

(d) whether because of this Flour Mills in Maharashtra, particularly Vidarbha have closed down, leading to a large scale unemployment; and

(e) if so, what is being done to ameliorate this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP-NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Vidharbha Roller Flour Millers Association has represented for reduction of price especially for Vidharbha Region at par with Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The price for sale in open market is fixed by the Food Corporation of India on month to month basis for various States keeping in view the Minimum Support Price, transportation lead from procurement States, availability of surplus stocks and other operational factors.

(c) The Roller Flour Mills are free to purchase wheat from the neighbouring States if it is economically viable to them. Similarly, Roller Flour Mills are free to sell their finished product anywhere in the country.

(d) As per the information available with the Ministry of Roller Flour Mill in Maharashtra has closed down leading to the large scale unemployment.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase in the Prices of Pulses

4080. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in the prices of pulses in the domestic market;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) what is the present supply position and what is the gap between the demand and supply ;

(d) what steps Government have taken to curb the increase in Prices of Pulses ;

(e) whether it is a fact that exporters are importing cheap and inferior quality of Pulses for domestic use and are exporting superior quality of Pulses from India ;

(f) if so, what are the details of import and export of Pulses during each of the last three years; and

(g) what is the per capita production and consumption of Pulses in India, China, Russia and USA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP-NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been some seasonal increase in the prices of pulses in the domestic market.

(b) The increase in the prices of pulses is mainly due to the fact that domestic production has not kept pace with the domestic demand.

(c) The production of pulses during the crop year (July-June) 1993-94 is estimated at 14.84 million Metric Tonnes as against the requirement of about 16-17 million Metric Tonnes.

(d) The centrally-sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in the country to provide an impetus to pulses production in the country. Besides, import of pulses is freely allowed.