

Procurement of Rice by FCI

577. SHRI YERRA NARA-YANASWAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated procurement of rice in 1994-95 by Food Corporation of India;

(b) what is the State-wise projections of such figures ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are losses in the storage of rice by Food Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the details of losses in storage of rice by Food Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAJ) : (a) and (b) Kharif Marketing Season 1994-95 will start from 1st October, 1994 and it is too early to assess the prospects of procurement. Procurement of paddy for Central Pool under price support scheme being totally voluntary and the procurement of levy rice from millers/traders being dependent on quantum of paddy procured by them, no targets, as such, can be fixed for procurement of rice.

(c) and (d) Storage losses in respect of rice by Food Corporation of India are as under :—

(Qty. in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Quantity	Percentage of quantity issued
1990-91	1.03	0.58
1991-92	1.57	0.72
1992-93	1.43	0.68

The figures for 1993-94 will be available only after the accounts for his financial year are audited and finalised

Rise in Sugar Prices

578. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price of sugar has increased to Rs. 1650/- per quintal in May 1994 from Rs. 1085/- per quintal in June, 93;

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring down the price to a reasonable level and the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAJ) : (a) The wholesale price of sugar in the five principal markets of the country ranged between Rs. 995/- to Rs. 1135/- per quintal in June, 1993. It ranged between Rs. 1350/- to Rs. 1630/- per quintal in May, 1994.

(b) and (c) Earlier, the rise in sugar prices had been on account of speculative tendencies in anticipation of fall in sugar production during the current season. However, from the second fortnight of May onwards, the prices have been showing a declining trend.

To meet the situation arising out of the shortage of sugar and to contain the prices of sugar and to ensure adequate availability during the remaining part of the current season and early next season, the following measures have been taken :—

1. Import of sugar has been allowed under OGL. No duty of customs and no additional duty of customs will be levied on this import. A quantity of about 5.98 lakh tonnes imported by private parties has already arrived at various ports upto 22-7-94 and has started reaching

domestic markets in various parts of the country.

2. In order to augment the supply for the Public Distribution System, it has further been decided that Public Sector Undertakings, i.e. STC & MMTC, would also undertake import of sugar. Of the contracts made by STC/MMTC, a quantity of about 42,000 tonnes has already arrived at various ports.

3. Import of raw sugar has been placed under OGL.

4. With a view to ensure that indigenous sugar is not held back by sugar mills, restrictions on sale and despatch of freesale sugar has been imposed on a weekly basis, instead of fortnightly basis, which existed earlier.

5. Gur (Control) Order 1994 has been issued, imposing, stock-holding limits, turnover period etc., on the stocks held by gur dealers. This has been done with a view to discourage speculative hoarding of gur. It is also expected to have a sympathetic sobering effect on sugar prices.

6. Sugar industry has been persuaded to agree to the conversion of 2.5 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar into levy as loan on replenishment basis, for distribution to the consumers through the Public Distribution System.

7. Sugar prices in the open market are regulated through monthly releases, which are made in a judicious manner, in order to maintain the prices at reasonable levels.

चीनी का आयात

579. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीनी के आयात के मामले में सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों के बीच विवाद रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो विवाद के मुख्य मुद्दे क्या थे और क्या सरकार ने इसके लिए किसी को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है और इस मामले में कार्यवाही की है ;

(ग) क्या इस मुद्दे पर लोक सेवा समिति की रिपोर्ट की अवहेलना की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और उसका क्या अर्थव्यय है ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) : (क) से (घ) चालू चीनी मौसम में चीनी की उपलब्धता की कमी से पैदा होने वाली स्थिति से निपटने में की गई चूक, यदि कोई हो, के तथ्यों का पता लगाने तथा प्रथम दृष्टया जिम्मेदारी निर्धारित करने के लिए प्रारंभिक प्रशासनिक जांच के आदेश दे दिए गए हैं। जांच का परिणाम अभी प्रतीक्षित है।

चीनी घोटाले की जांच

580. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार चीनी घोटाले की जांच को दबाना चाहती है जोकि प्रतिभूति घोटाले से भी बड़ा है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सभी संबंधित अधिकारियों और खाद्य सचिव से स्पष्टीकरण मांगा गया है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस मामले में सरकार का अन्तिम निर्णय क्या है ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) : (क) से (ग) सरकार ने चालू चीनी मौसम में चीनी की उपलब्धता की कमी से उत्पन्न स्थिति के संबंध में दिनांक 17 जुलाई, 1994 के आदेश के तहत पहले ही एक जांच समिति गठित