

rice against which they have lifted 59.5 thousand tonnes of rice.

(d) Allocations of rice and wheat are made to State/UTs including Rajasthan and Orissa on a month to month basis taking into account the demands received, over all availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States/UTs and seasonal availability. These allotments are only supplemental to market availability and are not intended to meet the entire demand of States/Union Territories.

Allocation of Imported Wheat

3862. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported wheat is proposed to be kept in the Central Pool or likely to be allotted to the deficit States;

(b) the per K.G. loss likely to be incurred by Government in this process;

(c) the gap between supply and demand likely to be reduced as a result thereof; and

(d) the consequential impact of import on the production of wheat as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The wheat is being imported to supplement existing stocks in the Central Pool and will be utilised basically for issue to the States/Union Territories for Public Distribution System against monthly allocations.

(b) Against the estimated economic cost of Rs. 4550 per tonne for domestically procured wheat, the average economic cost of imported wheat including ocean freight, insurance, port handling, bagging and distribution cost is estimated as Rs. 5174 per tonne. With the present Central issue price of Rs. 2.80 per Kg., the element of subsidy incurred by the Central Government visa-vis domestically procured wheat is Rs. 1.75 per kg. and for imported wheat is Rs. 2.37 per kg.

(c) The gap between supply and demand of wheat through the Public Distribution System will be reduced to the extent of quantity imported i.e. 2.99 million tonnes.

(d) The import of wheat had to be resorted to in view of the fall in foodgrains production during 1991-92 crop year and the lower wheat procurement. It was to correct the imbalance between demand and supply and to contain the sharply rising open-market prices. While it is true that import of wheat has resulted in restraining the rise in open-market prices of wheat since September this year, by allowing a higher minimum support price for wheat for the Rabi 1993 marketing seasons, Government expects that overall wheat production in the country will increase.

Losses in Sugar Industry

3863. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar production is on the increase in the country; if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that sugar industry is incurring huge losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The details of sugar production during the last three sugar years is as under:—

Sugar Year (October-September)	Production in lakh tonnes
1989-90	109.89
1990-91	120.47
1991-92	132.77 (Provisional)

(b) Government does not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.