

Central Warehousing Corporation is also building storage capacity of 1.66 lakh MT in A.P. under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme.

Another proposal for additional storage capacity of 15 lakh MT has been recently received from the Government of A.P.

Wheat at export price to bakers of Maharashtra

481. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for allocation of wheat at export price rate @Rs. 415/- per quintal, to the bakers in Maharashtra to enable them to distribute Pav/Bread at reduced price to substantial number of poor people in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering their proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal had been received from the Federation of Maharashtra Bakers Associations for release of 1 lakh M.T. of wheat per month for the next two years, through the State Government of Maharashtra at the export price of Rs. 415/- per quintal for producing bakery products at cheaper rates. At present, there is no scheme for providing wheat to bakeries for conversion to bakery products. The bakeries are free to purchase wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat. The issue price of wheat under this scheme in the West Zone is Rs. 695/- per quintal. A discount of Rs. 40/- per quintal is also available for the wheat crop 2001-2002 of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. (some districts).

Revival of sugar industry

482. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industry in the country is in trouble due to wrong policies, particularly, the monthly release mechanism of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to revive the sugar industry; and