

- (b) if so, whether permission has been given; and
 (c) if not, when it will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The agency for setting up of Atomic Power Plants in India (including at Kaiga, in Karnataka) is Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. Proposals for Nuclear Power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan *inter-alia* include commencement of work on two units of Kaiga i.e. Units-3 & 4 (2 x 220 MWe).

Storage and handling cost of Foodgrains by FCI

1285. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the cost of storage and handling grains by the Food Corporation of India;
 (b) how does this cost compare with costs in the private sector;
 (c) whether it is a fact that the price of foodgrains from public distribution system to non-BPL consumers is more than the price in the open market; and
 (d) whether Government have any intention to privatise storage and handling of grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Storage and handling charges incurred by the FCI are allocated between the distribution cost which is a part of the Economic Cost and Buffer Carrying Cost as per the formula of distribution as approved by the Government. The details of the Storage and handling charges for the current year are as follows:

(Rs./qtl)

	Distribution Cost which is part of Economic Cost		Buffer
	Wheat	Rice	
Handling	22.35	22.26	16.71
Storage	12.04	12.05	36.17

(b) Since no data of the cost in the private sector is available, it is not possible to compare the FCI's cost with that of the private sector.

[3rd August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) No, Sir. Open market prices vary from place to place and from time to time. While at certain centres the prices are lower than the PDS prices for non-BPL consumers, at other centres these are more than the same.

(d) Government has already announced a National policy on Storage, Handling and Transportation of foodgrains which envisages private sector participation in storage and handling of foodgrains.

Foodgrains issued through PDS

1286. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains issued through the PDS during the last three months; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to reduce the huge stock of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India in view of the diminishing offtake through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN):

(a) The quantities of rice and wheat allotted and lifted under Public Distribution System (PDS) during April, 2000 to June, 2000 are as under. The information about lifting for July, 2000 is not yet available.

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Month	Rice		Wheat	
	Allotment	Lifting (P)	Allotment	Lifting (P)
April, 2000	12.07	5.79	8.75	1.86
May, 2000	12.50	6.24	8.85	2.18
June, 2000	12.50	6.07	8.85	2.75
July, 2000	12.50	----	8.85	----

(P)-Provisional.

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government to reduce the surplus stocks of foodgrains in the Central pool:—

- (i) The Government has reduced the Central Issue Prices (C.I.P.) of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from 25.7.2000.