

Statement-II

Storage Space Scenario for storing wheat by FCI

Punjab

(Figures in lakh MT)

Estimated Procurement (FCI Share)	23.00
Vacant CAP Capacity as on 1.4.2010	10.50
Covered Godowns not to be used for rice and vacant covered accommodation	4.80
Hiring of CAP	1.44
Plinths under construction in FCI Depots	0.80
Shortfall	5.46
Anticipated Direct Movement from Mandis	4.00
Net Shortfall of Space *(anticipated)	1.46

Haryana

Estimated Procurement (FCI Share)	10.00
Vacant CAP Capacity as on 1.4.2010	2.73
Vacant Covered Capacity	3.90
Total Capacity	6.63
Shortfall	3.37
Anticipated Direct Movement from Mandis	3.00
Net Shortfall of Space *(anticipated)	0.37

*Net shortfall of space will be met by using rice mill plinths, mandi yards additional hiring of covered and CAP capacities in procurement as well as consumption States etc.

Over-consumption by people

†4647. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is of the opinion that prices are rising due to over-consumption by people;
- (b) if so, Government's figures regarding people affected with malnutrition; and
- (c) the reasons behind rising prices and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Rise in domestic prices of certain essential commodities was owing to the combined effect of factors such as shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, increase in MSP, hardening of international prices, improvement in income and living standards, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather and climate change. Market expectations and sentiments also play a major role in price rise. Delayed monsoon as well as floods triggered an expectation of lower production which also contributed to pushing up the price level of food articles.

(b) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3, 2005-06 conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the prevalence of malnutrition is as under:—

- Percentage of under nourished children under 3 years — 40.4
- Percentage of children under 3 years suffering from anaemia — 78.9
- Percentage of underweight children under 5 years — 42.5
- Percentage of children (6-59 months) with anaemia — 69.5
- Percentage of girls (15-19 years) with anaemia — 55.8
- Percentage of women (15-49 years) with anaemia — 55.3
- Percentage of pregnant women (15-49 years) with anaemia — 58.7
- Percentage of women (15-49 years) having Body Mass Index less than 18.5 *i.e.* thin — 35.6

The level of malnutrition among children under three years of age has decreased from 42.7% to 40.4% as revealed in NHFS-3 (2005-06) in comparison to NHFS-2, 1989-99.

(c) The reasons for the rise in prices of essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, pulses, milk, potato and onion during the last one year are as follows:—

- (i) The increase in prices of the rice and wheat can be attributed partly due to the increase in MSP.
- (ii) The less than estimated sugar production in the country during the last sugar season 2008-09 and the anticipated low production of sugar during the current sugar season 2009-10 led to escalation in sugar prices.
- (iii) Weather, apart from seasonal factors have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables and fruits. Onion prices increased primarily on account of the floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the heavy rain in Maharashtra, which affected the kharif crop of onion and its supply to markets across the country.
- (iv) Domestic prices of pulses rose mainly on account of the supply-demand mismatch and hardening of international prices.
- (v) The increase in cost of milk production due to increase in prices of cattle feed ingredients upto Rs. 4/kg in last one year, and higher consumption of milk in rural areas due to increase in disposable income of rural population as a result of implementation of income and employment generation schemes.