

Hoarding of pulses and other food-items

4648. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
DR. T.N. SEEMA:

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

(a) whether speculators and hoarders within the country are in league with international operators in driving up prices of pulses and other food items;

(b) whether Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken up investigation of Rs. 250 crore pulses scam; and

(c) in what way hoarders are able to hoard a huge quantity of pulses without knowledge of Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No case relating to speculation and hoarding of pulses and other food items has been reported to the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of (a) above, Does not arise.

Release of wheat and rice under OMSS

4649. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to release 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and 15 lakh tonnes of rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) so as to increase their availability in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these quantities of wheat and rice are enough to meet the requirement of the entire country; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government to meet requirements of the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) 20 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice were allotted to States/Union Territories/NAFED/NCCF for distribution to retail consumers under Open Market Sale Scheme for the period October 2009 to March 2010. Another 20.81 lakh tonnes and 5 lakh tonnes of wheat were allocated for sale through tenders to bulk consumers and small processors respectively under the Open Market Sale Scheme through FCI. Statements showing allocation and lifting of wheat and rice under the Scheme are given in Statement-I, II and III (*See below*).