

expectations etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the effect of importing food items on domestic prices.

(c) and (d) The interest of poor consumers is protected by supplying the essential items like wheat, rice, sugar etc. through the Public Distribution System.

Arrangement for storing of wheat

†3112. 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 wheat is still stocked in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) beyond its capacity from the year 2007, 2008 and 2009;

(b) if so, whether stocked wheat is rotting and is not eatable; and

(c) the details of arrangement for storage of wheat of current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The total capacity available with FCI and the stocks stored therein for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as under :—

Figures in LMT

As on	Capacity (Covered+CAP)	Stocks
31.3.2007	252.87	135.97
31.3.2008	238.94	117.49
31.3.2009	252.79	192.58

Thus, the overall stocks were not beyond the capacity available with FCI for the three years.

(b) No, Sir. However, certain quantities may get damaged and become non-issuable due to reasons like rodents, pests, etc.

(c) At present storage gap in the two major procuring States of Punjab and Haryana is estimated at 12.63 lakh tonnes and 1.04 lakh tonnes respectively on account of expected arrival of new rabi wheat crop.

The arrangements for storage of wheat for the current season and corrective actions taken to bridge the storage gap are as under :—

1. For creation of storage capacity for the long term, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through Private Entrepreneurs, under a 7 years guarantee. Furthermore, wherever CWC and SWCs construct godowns on their own land, FCI will provide 6 years guarantee.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. Directions have been issued to the field offices to optimally utilize existing capacity.
3. Executive Directors (Zone), FCI have been delegated full powers to hire Covered and Plinth (CAP) capacities from private parties for 3 years extendable by 2 years as per the need/requirement.
4. Additional space, if required, may be hired from Rice mills/Sugar mills/Mandi yards etc. to fill up the remaining gap, if any.
5. In the last one year FCI has hired 28.54 lakh tonnes of additional capacity and constructed plinths in its existing complexes to the extent of 4.23 lakh tonnes. FCI have also hired 3.3 lakh tonnes capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation during the months of March/April, 2010.

Pending dues of sugar millers to farmers of Uttar Pradesh

3113. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the dues of sugar millers in Uttar Pradesh to farmers have piled up in excess of Rs. 1000 crore during the current season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Cane Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that, for the sugar season 2009-10, out of the total cane price payable of Rs. 13046.52 crore, a sum of Rs. 11761 crore stands paid leaving a balance of Rs. 1285.52 crore, as on 15.04.2010. However, the total cane price payable within 14 days is Rs. 12623.92 crore, out of which Rs. 11761.00 crore has been paid leaving a cane price arrears of Rs. 862.92 crore. The Cane Commissioner has also informed that recent decline in sugar prices has affected the capacity of the Sugar Mills to pay cane price.

Direct subsidy to BPL families

3114. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state whether instead of supplying subsidized rice to the BPL family, Government has plan to give the subsidy of Rs. 13 per kg of rice directly to the BPL family member like old age pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Government has no plan to give subsidy of Rs. 13 per kg of rice directly to the BPL family member like old age pension. However, State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families in lieu of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution