

(a) the details of all officer cadres, including members and Chairpersons (except Class IV employees/steno/typists and PS/PPS etc.) of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)/ Appellate Tribunal since its inception along with the names of the Ministry/Department from which these officers were deputed to the PFRDA/Appellate Tribunal;

(b) the officers who have already left PFRDA/Appellate Tribunal with details of the Department/Ministry they joined/retired after completing their term with PFRDA/Appellate Tribunal; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the PFRDA/Appellate Tribunal are truly independent from Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House of the extent available.

Seizure of toxic wheat by Customs at Chennai Port

3413. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customs authorities at Chennai Port has recently detained a huge consignment of toxic wheat imported from Australia;

(b) if so, whether the consignment of wheat from Australia was found containing more than permissible levels of pesticide chloropyrifos;

(c) if so, whether the clearing agents were trying to get clearance of the said consignment by using fake documents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government not to allow such toxic wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Customs have seized 1250 MTs wheat imported from Australia at Chennai Port on a reasonable suspicion that the same contained pesticide beyond permissible level.

(b) The consignment was found to contain a pesticide residue chloropyrifos @ 0.75 Mg/Kg which exceeds the maximum permissible limit of @ 0.05 Mg/Kg.

(c) and (d) Attempt was made to clear the consignment by producing forged test certificate by clearing agents. Three persons have been arrested in this connection. All the Customs Port formations as well as the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are on alert to prevent import of Toxic Wheat into the Country.

Disclosure by officers of Capital Market Division

3414. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Capital Markets Division follow any process of disclosure of participation in the equity markets by the officers and staff at the time of joining the Division and also subsequently during the tenure in the Division;