

Statement-IV

Buffer Carrying Cost

	(In Rs. Crore)		
	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional)	2009-10 (Revised Estimates)
Buffer Carrying Cost	449	2822	3926
Carry over Charges paid to State agencies	243	573	1797
TOTAL Buffer Subsidy	692	3395	5723

Import of wheat from Australia

3898. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1250 tonnes of wheat imported from Australia was found to be poisonous and not fit for human consumption and seized;

(b) if so, the persons responsible for such a shady deal; and

(c) the action taken on this, besides the measures taken to ensure non-recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

In-depth study of proposed National Food Security Bill

3899. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the empowered Group of Ministers on the proposed draft of the National Food Security Bill has decided to have an in-depth study of the Bill;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposed National Food Security Bill;

(c) whether suggestions of food experts and economists have been considered before finalizing the proposed law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has circulated a Concept Note on the proposed Food Security Law to all States/Union Territories and concerned Central Ministries and has also held consultations

with the State Food Secretaries, representatives of various Central Ministries, Planning Commission and other experts and economists.

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted for the purpose has requested Planning Commission to examine several issues relating to the proposed law and to give its recommendations.

Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalised, it would be placed on the website of the DFPD for public scrutiny and comments.

Market manipulation

3900. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any large scale market manipulation/price fixing of food items has been detected and investigated by Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has a clear policy/programme and intelligence to address market manipulation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) Questions does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and detain such persons under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community.

Export of sugar

3901. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one and half years ago his Ministry had given sanction to export sugar at a rate of Rs. 12.5 per kg. to other countries;

(b) if so, whether Government had given subsidy to the exporters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not given sanction for export of sugar at a rate of Rs. 12.5 per kg. to other countries. However, the Central Government, with a view to improve