

The quality check at the storage depots, purchase points, roller flour mills and rail-heads is with a view to minimising any quality complaints through the public distribution system. Similarly, the consumers' opinion helps in devising ways and means to create better consciousness about the quality aspects of the food item being distributed. The findings from these investigations are intimated to the State Governments, the Storage Agencies and the FCI, as the case may be, for appropriate action, including those against the defaulting persons.

(b) Under the New 20-Point Programme, the Central Government have already issued instructions to all State Govts./Union Territory Administrations for strengthening the public distribution system by opening more fair-price shops. Letters have also been issued from the Centre to the States/U.Ts. for the encouragement to Cooperative Societies while making allotment of licences for new fair-price shops. In so far as the Union Territory of Delhi is concerned, Cooperative Societies and Ex-servicemen are already in the preferential category for grant of licences for new fair-price shops, as per the policy of Delhi Administration. As regards delivery of items, this is taken by the fair price shops in Delhi directly from the supplying Central Agencies such as the FCI (for foodgrains) and Ganesh Flour Mills (for imported rapeseed oil).

(c) The concerned State Governments/U.T. Administrations have the option to include such other items to their respective public distribution system, as they deem fit, by arranging supplies on their own. However, in view of the generally perishable nature of commodities such as vegetables, fruits and milk, it would not be feasible to ask fair-price shops to handle such commodities.

Visit of Health Experts from the U.S.S.R.

1114. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of health experts from the Soviet Union recently visited India as published in the "Patriot" on the 22nd April, 1983;

(b) if so, the names of the leader and other Members of the Soviet team who visited India, the details of discussions held with the Indian counterparts including the Union Minister for Health and the outcome thereof;

(c) the names of the cities in India where centres are proposed to be set up with the Soviet help for coronary by-pass Surgery;

(d) the names and status of heart surgeons from the U.S. who also visited India recently and have met the Health Minister and the details of discussions held with him; and

(e) whether some centres for heart transplantation are expected to set up in India with the United States assistance if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (e) A Soviet Health Delegation led by the Soviet Dy. Minister of Health visited India from 20th to 26th April, 1983. The composition of the Delegation is enclosed as statement.

During visit of the Delegation, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest in the field of Medical Sciences and Public Health and reviewed the progress in the implementation of programmes identified in the Agreement and Plan of Cooperation signed between the two countries.

There is no proposal at present to set up either Coronary Bypass Surgery Centres with Soviet assistance or Heart Transplantation Centres with U.S. aid. Dr. Delton Cooley of the Texas Heart Institute, U.S.A. had made a courtesy call on the Union Health Minister on 21st April, 1983 and they discussed matters of general interest in the Health sphere.

Statement

Members of Soviet Delegation

1. H.E. Mr. P. I. Gerasimov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health of the USSR.

2. Mr. A. S. Gritsenko, Chief, V/O "Sojuzdravzagranpostavka" USSR Ministry of Health.

3. Professor S. N. Fedorov, Director, Moscow Research Institute of Eye Microsurgery.

4. Mr. A. A. Neswelov, Vice-President, V/O "Technoexport", the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

5. Dr. V. E. Panflov, Second Secretary, Embassy of the USSR in India.

6. Mr. A. F. Shalaev, Interpreter.

Import of foodgrains

1115. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the total quantity and value of foodgrains, rice and wheat separately, imported year-wise from 1980-81 to 1983-84?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): A statement indicating quantity and value of wheat and rice imported during 1980-81 to 1983-84 is attached.

Statement

Quantity and value of wheat and rice imported during 1980-81 to 1983-84

Year	Commodity	Quantity purchased (Lakh tonnes)	Estimated value (FOB)
1980-81	Wheat	Nil	Nil
	Rice	Nil	Nil
1981-82	Wheat	15.15 (from USA) 7.50 (from Australia)	US \$ 262.066 million A \$ 118.600 million
	Rice	Nil	Nil
	Wheat	39.50 (from USA)	US \$ 654.778 million
1982-83	Rice	Nil	Nil
	Wheat	Nil	Nil
1983-84 (Till July end)	Wheat	Nil	Nil
	Rice	0.70 (from Thailand)	US \$ 15.550 million
	Rice	0.50 (from Burma)	US \$ 9.625 million

Issue Price of wheat and rice

1116. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the issue prices of rice and wheat per kg. sold through public distribution system;

(b) on how many occasions, the issue prices of each of the above com-