

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), Mumbai did not exist in early sixties and was never banned. The Government granted recognition of NCDEX on 20th November, 2003 on a permanent basis. The Exchange commenced its operations on 15th December, 2003.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The reasons for rise in prices of pulses and staple commodities are mainly shortfall in domestic supply relative to demand and hardening of international prices of certain foodgrain items. Main benefits from futures trading at the commodity exchanges including at NCDEX are price discovery and the facility for price risk management by various categories of persons such as farmers, manufactures, exporters, consumers etc.

Kharif Procurement in WB

3066. SHRI MUKUL ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the kharif procurement targets in West Bengal during the last five years by the FCI and by the State Government;

(b) the achievements made during that period by them, separately;

(c) the reasons for non-achieving the targets by them, separately; and

(d) the target of kharif procurement from October, 2005 to September, 2006 and the achievements made by them separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Since procurement of foodgrains is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, estimates of paddy/rice procurement in each State (combined for FCI and State Agencies) are drawn up in a meeting of State Food Secretaries held before each Kharif Marketing Seasons (KMS). These estimates for West Bengal for last five years including the current KMS 2005-06 alongwith achievements made by FCI and State Agencies are enclosed at Statement.

Statement

Estimates of Procurement of Rice (Including paddy in terms of rice) as well as the actual procurement by FCI and State Agencies in West Bengal during the Last Five Years including the current year

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

KMS	Estimate of procurement (in terms of rice)	Actual Procurement by FCI	Actual Procurement by State Agencies	Total Procurement
2001-02	No estimates were drawn up	—	0.48	0.48
2002-03	4	1.26	—	1.26
2003-04	7.48	6.29	2.96	9.25
2004-05	10	3.18	6.26	9.44
2005-06	8.94	12.20#	4.66	16.86*

Includes procurement by State Agencies financed by FCI.

* As on 21.08.06

Production of Ethanol

†3067. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is fact that there is a need to promote production of ethanol after the decision having been taken for mixing ethanol in petrol in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and the assessment of total maximum ethanol production in the country in the year 2006-07; and

(c) its minimum and maximum expected selling price?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.