

#### **Failure to control price rise**

†1372. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of consumer food items have been soaring instead of declining;
- (b) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has assured the country in and outside the House to bring down the price rise for last three years; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for failure to fulfil the assurance so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) On account of various fiscal and administrative steps taken by the Government over the last six months, retail prices of most of the essential commodities are either steady or declining.

(c) and (d) Rise in prices is due to the combined effect of factors such as, growing demand on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, diversion of food grains for fuel, adverse weather and climate change, increase in crude oil prices, hikes in MSP, and increase in freight rates also have had an impact on the prices of essential commodities. Market expectations and sentiments play a major role in price rise. Weather apart from seasonable factors was responsible for the rise in the prices of fruits and vegetables. Government takes several proactive measures to moderate the price rise and to ensure that the vulnerable sections of the society is protected.

#### **Wastage of wheat**

†1373. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of quantum of wheat spoiled since year 2007 till the current financial year, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for wheat getting spoiled;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action against careless officials, if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government has considered formulation of a new plan to check it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Details of damaged wheat stocks in FCI godowns from 2007-08 till July, 2010, FCI Region-wise are at Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Wheat got damaged due to various reasons such as storage pests attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, during movement of stocks, exposure to rains, flood, etc.

(c) FCI officials found responsible for damages to wheat and proceeded against during last three years are as under:

| Year    | No. of officials proceeded against for wastage of wheat |
|---------|---|
| 2007-08 | 9   |
| 2008-09 | 5   |
| 2009-10 | 2   |
| Total   | 16  |

(d) and (e) For proper handling and scientific storage of wheat and other stocks of foodgrains in FCI godowns, there are standing guidelines as given in Statement-II (*See below*). These need to be followed strictly by FCI authorities.

***Statement-I***

*A. Region-wise wheat stock accrued as non-issuable (damaged) for the year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 (upto June)*

(Fig. in tons)

| Sl.No. | Region    | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11<br>(upto June) |
|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| 1      | 2         | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6                      |
| 1.     | Bihar     | 455     | 6       | 655     | 11                     |
| 2.     | Jharkhand | 46      | 1       | 13      | 0                      |
| 3.     | Orissa    | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0                      |

| 1     | 2         | 3   | 4   | 5    | 6  |
|-------|-----------|-----|-----|------|----|
| 4.    | W.B.      | 24  | 84  | 325  | 8  |
| 5.    | Assam     | 52  | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 6.    | NEF       | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 7.    | N&M       | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 8.    | Delhi     | 0   | 0   | 3    | 0  |
| 9.    | Haryana   | 0   | 16  | 0    | 6  |
| 10.   | H.P.      | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 11.   | J&K       | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 12.   | Punjab    | 0   | 26  | 0    | 0  |
| 13.   | Raj.      | 4   | 0   | 12   | 0  |
| 14.   | U.P.      | 9   | 62  | 12   | 34 |
| 15.   | U. Khand  | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 16.   | A.P.      | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 17.   | Kerala    | 0   | 7   | 0    | 5  |
| 18.   | Karnataka | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0  |
| 19.   | T. Nadu   | 0   | 1   | 0    | 0  |
| 20.   | Gujarat   | 270 | 620 | 785  | 1  |
| 21.   | Mah.      | 51  | 110 | 173  | 6  |
| 22.   | M.P.      | 13  | 14  | 28   | 1  |
| 23.   | C. Garh   | 0   | 0   | 4    | 0  |
| Total |           | 924 | 947 | 2010 | 72 |

*B. Damage to wheat stocks in FCI godowns in July 2010  
(01.07.2010 to 31.07.2010) as reported by FCI.*

| States        | Depots                  | Damaged wheat (tons)        |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | Hapur                   | 9.3                         |
|               | Harduaganj              | 90                          |
|               | FSD, Roza, Shahjahanpur | Damage yet to be quantified |
|               | Orai, Jalaun            | Damage yet to be quantified |
| Rajasthan     | Udaipur, rail head      | 8.56                        |
| Haryana       | HSWC, Bani              | Damage yet to be quantified |
| Punjab        | Khonuri, Sangrur        | Damage yet to be quantified |
| Uttarakhand   | SWC Gadarpur,           | Damage yet to be quantified |
|               | Udham Singh Nagar       |                             |

***Statement-II***

*Steps required to be taken for proper storage, movement and  
safe upkeep of foodgrains in FCI godowns:*

- (i) All FCI godowns should be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals should be provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments should be carried out regularly and timely for the control of stored grain insect pests and rodents.
- (iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage should be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates be used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (v) Regular inspections of the stocks/godowns should be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.

- (vi) The principle of "First-In-First-Out" (FIFO) should be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (vii) Only covered wagons should be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.
- (viii) Proper weighment and accounting should be ensured at the time of receipt and issue of foodgrains.
- (ix) Transit losses in rail movement of foodgrains should be insured.
- (x) While transporting foodgrains from Depot to Rail head & vice-versa, escorts should be provided.

#### **Distribution of subsidized foodgrains**

1374. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether National Advisory Council (NAC) has recommended that Government should rollout distribution of subsidized foodgrains in at least 200 poorest disadvantaged districts across the country by April next year without waiting for the passage of Food Security Bill in Parliament;

(b) if so, whether it has also been suggested that people living in the poorest of the poor districts which included naxal affected regions should get 35 kg. of foodgrains - rice, wheat, millets and pulses at a subsidized rate of Rs. 3/- per kg; and

(c) if so, whether Government has considered the NAC proposals and by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Advisory Council (NAC) has not made any recommendation to the Government regarding distribution of subsidized foodgrains in at least 200 poorest disadvantaged districts across the country by April next year without waiting for the passage of National Food Security Bill in Parliament.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.