

(a) whether Government is aware that about 10 million tonnes of foodgrains are at the risk of rotting in different parts of the country that will cost the country around Rs. 17,000 crores;

(b) whether Government is aware that this amount of foodgrains can feed 14 crore people for a month; and

(c) if so, who is responsible for this enormous loss to national exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As all Central Pool foodgrains cannot be stored in covered godowns by FCI and State Government agencies due to shortage of such covered storage space, some wheat stocks are also stored in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage.

As per the report received from FCI, as on 15.7.2010, a quantity of 22.54 lakh tons of foodgrains were in CAP storage. There were 11,708 tons damaged/non-issuable foodgrains (wheat, rice and paddy) in FCI depots in various regions as on 1.7.2010. On that date 54260 and 1574 tons of non-issuable wheat were also there with State agencies in Punjab and Haryana, respectively.

FCI has reported further damage to wheat stocks during July, 2010 in U.P., Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana. Exact quantities of all these damages are being worked out.

After detailed inquiry in each case of damages, FCI and concerned State agencies are to fix responsibility and recover the losses. For the damages at Hapur, Orai and Harduaganj depots in U.P., FCI has initiated action including suspension of 8 officers.

Market intervention method to control price rise

2164. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take steps to support State Governments financially to intervene in the market to control price rise;

(b) whether Government of Kerala has requested for financial support for the subsidized supply chain run by Governmental agencies;

(c) whether Government has evaluated Kerala's market intervention methods and whether it was successful; and

(d) the steps taken to address Kerala's request for Centre's support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) There is no scheme at present under which financial assistance can be given for Market Intervention Operation Scheme to the State Government of Kerala. A scheme for giving financial assistance to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments for non-formal Public Distribution System through State Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumers Marketing Federations has been formulated for approval. The scheme aims at strengthening the capacity of the State Agencies i.e. State Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumers Marketing Federations through augmentation of their financial resources with one time financial assistance from the Government of India and thereby enabling them to intervene effectively in the market by augmenting availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices in time of scarcity and/or spurt in prices.

Production and MSP of pulses

‡2165. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of pulses during the last three years in the country, yearwise;
- (b) the average annual consumption of pulses in the country;
- (c) the import price and minimum support price of pulses that was fixed;
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by Government to increase the production of pulses; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that either minimum support price was not declared or Government purchase centres were not opened in many years in the last 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The details of the actual production of pulses and the estimated demand of pulses during the last three years in the country is given in Statement-I (See below).

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi