

Reduction of subsidy on PDS foodgrains

2170. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has recommended measures aimed at substantial reduction of subsidies on foodgrains meant for public distribution;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations; and
- (c) the response of Government thereto?

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

Planning Commission has not recommended any such measures for reducing subsidies on foodgrains meant for public distribution.

Damage to wheat in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

2171. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that due to utter negligence of the officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI), a wheat stock worth several crores have been damaged in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with the estimated loss of wheat and its price; and
- (c) the action taken so far against the erring officials for this damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) FCI has reported (on 11.08.2010) damages to wheat stocks due to recent rains in Uttar Pradesh as follows:

State	Depots	Damaged wheat(tons)
1	2	3
	Hapur	9.3
Uttar	Harduaganj	90
Pradesh	Orai, Jalaun	0.5

1	2	3
	Saharanpur, CWC Bamanheri	29.2
	CWC, Saharanpur, Pilkhani	1.0
	Roza, Shahjahanpur	Damage yet to be quantified
	Chanderi, Kanpur	Damage yet to be quantified

In Maharashtra, damage of 8.8 tons wheat stock has been reported by FCI at Karad and Gondia.

Based on current economic cost to FCI, value of the so far quantified damaged wheat in U.P. and Maharashtra works out to Rs.21.4 lakh.

(c) FCI has initiated action against delinquent officers including suspension of eight officers for damages at Hapur, Orai and Harduaganj depots in U.P.

For the damages at rest depots in U.P. and Maharashtra exact quantities are being worked out based on which FCI has to fix responsibility.

Implementation of FSA

2172. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is engaged in reviewing BPL benchmark with better BPL identification methods as suggested by N.C. Saxena Committee;

(b) whether Government would strive towards making Food Security Act (FSA) work through a universal Public Distribution System at least in rural areas and urban slums;

(c) whether tentative estimates suggest a total outlay of Rs. 1,00,000 crores for the rollout of FSA every year which is just about 1.5 per cent of India's GDP; and

(d) whether the resources for FSA could be moped up by pruning existing food and fertilizer subsidies and also from a massive base of revenue foregone account on tax exemptions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development had appointed an