

#### **Procurement of Bajra by government**

1139. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to procure bumper crop of bajra at Rs.880 per quintal to avoid distress sale by farmers in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to procure bajra from farmers;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Government of Rajasthan and FCI are unable to store this bumper crop in their godowns/werehouses; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Coarsegrains are procured by State Governments, wherever necessary, to ensure payment of the declared Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers. On a request of Govt. of Rajasthan for assistance in procuring bajra, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been directed to undertake procurement of bajra at MSP at selected centres in Rajasthan with an understanding that FCI's share would not exceed one third of the total quantity of coarsegrains likely to be procured in the State. Remaining two thirds of the procurement is to be done by agencies of Rajasthan Government. Further, FCI has also been directed to release a rolling advance of Rs. 50 crore to the State Government for partial financing of the procurement operations of bajra.

(c) FCI has reported that it has the required storage capacity for storing procured bajra. The State Government has also not reported any shortage of godowns for this.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Measures to tackle hunger**

1140. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that other developing countries have done better than our country in tackling hunger;