

Statement-II

Steps being taken by FCI for proper storage, movement and safe upkeep of foodgrains

The following steps are being taken for proper storage, movement and safe upkeep of foodgrains in FCI:—

- (i) All FCI godowns are to be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.
- (ii) Adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments are to be carried out regularly and timely for the control of stored grain insect pests and rodents.
- (iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to 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 are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.
- (vi) The principle of "First-In-First-Out" (FIFO) is to be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (vii) Only covered wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.
- (viii) Proper weighment and accounting are to be ensured at the time of receipt and issue of foodgrains..
- (ix) Insuring transit losses in rail movement of foodgrains by rail.
- (x) Providing escorts while transporting foodgrains from Depot to Rail head and *vice-versa*.

Export of sugar

1915. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to export sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether while exporting, the indigenous requirement of sugar will be kept in mind; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) No decision to export sugar under Open General Licence has been taken by the Government. After the actual figures/dependable estimates of production of sugar during the current sugar season become available, the matter will be reviewed taking into consideration indigenous requirement of sugar. The Government has agreed to the request from the industry regarding re-export of sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS)/Advance Licence Scheme (ALS) as well as export of raw and white/refined sugar lying at ports.

Food insecurity in the country

1916. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report on the 'State of Food Insecurity in Urban India' has noted that in some States, the food insecurity has worsened during recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any plan to improve the food security situation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) World Food Programme (WFP) and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) have jointly released a Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Urban India in September, 2010. The Report is based on 11 indicators to capture access and absorption dimensions of food security. These indicators are given in the Statement (*See* below). The Report has attempted an analysis pertaining to urban areas of 18 States on the basis of these indicators and their variants for the period 1998-2000 and 2004-06. The Report has concluded that there has been improvement between 1998-2000 and 2004-2006 in the food security situation in urban India as measured by any of the six variants of the composite index.

(c) and (d) In order to address the issue of food security in the country, Government implements various schemes/programmes in partnership with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. There are adequate stocks of rice, wheat and coarse cereals available in the country. Government has adequate buffer stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool for allocations under these schemes/programmes. Government allocates foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families every month. Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in