

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railways issue "said to contain" Railway Receipts.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal. However, the Ministry has entrusted the RITES with a study on "transit loss of foodgrains" and to make specific suggestions for reduction in transit loss, including the installation of weighbridges.

Setting up of Agribusiness Revitalisation and Restructuring Tribunal

1632. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether food industry has demanded setting up of an Agribusiness Revitalisation and Restructuring Tribunal for disposing of or restructuring assets of sick units which are heavily burdened with debit;

(b) if so, whether they have also proposed tribunal to help in speedy recovery of non-performing assets and use of equipments and infrastructure for productive purpose by interested parties;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have considered their demands; and

(d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Involving PRIs in the functioning of TPDS in Orissa

1633. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has implemented the guidelines issued

by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in June, 1999 for greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the functioning of TPDS to bring about a more transparent and accountable system of distribution; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard and the results achieved therefrom up to 30th November, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has issued instructions in December, 1999 for involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in functioning of Public Distribution System in a transparent and accountable manner. The instructions *inter alia* provide for identification of BPL families by Gram Panchayat, display of the list of BPL beneficiaries in the office of the Gram Panchayat for scrutiny by the public, checking of ration cards occasionally redressal of grievances of the beneficiaries and oversee the functioning of the Fair Price Shops.

Prices of onion and potato

1634. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion and potato are high as compared to the international market and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of onion and potato in international market;

(c) the quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise, along with the foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to keep prices of onion and potato under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. As per information provided by NAFED, the domestic prices of onion and potato are not ruling high as compared to the prices in the international markets and there is no scarcity of these commodities in the country.