

- (a) the estimated production of sugar during 2010-11;
- (b) the likely shortfall in demand and supply; and
- (c) how Government proposes to ensure the availability of sugar in the open market at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Provisionally estimated production of sugar during current 2010-11 sugar season (October-September) is 245 lac tons which is adequate to meet the estimated demand of 220-225 lac tons during the season. As such, there is not likely to be any shortfall in supply of sugar in the current sugar season.

(c) Government has taken several measures to ensure adequate availability of sugar in the open market at reasonable prices as detailed in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 1906 (Part f)]

Inadequate protection of foodgrains in godowns

1911. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the rainy season in 2010, a large quantity of foodgrains was spoiled due to inadequate protection in FCI godowns;
- (b) if so, how much foodgrains have been spoiled in the godowns due to insufficient protection during 2009 and 2010; and
- (c) the steps taken to stop this wastage of foodgrains in godowns due to insufficient storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Some quantity of foodgrains stored in FCI godowns during rainy season 2010 got damaged due to different reasons. During 2009-10 and 2010-11 (upto January, 2011) a quantity of 6702 and 6348 tons of foodgrain accrued as damaged/non-issuable in FCI.

(c) State Governments and Food Corporation of India have been instructed from time to time to take required measures for proper and safe storage of foodgrains in covered godowns and in CAP storage. Instructions to all State Governments/UTs and FCI, for steps to be taken for proper preservation and safe storage of central pool stocks of foodgrains have been reiterated on 24th January, 2011 *inter-alia* for:

- (i) Sensitisation of all field functionaries;
- (ii) Carrying out inspection of stocks of foodgrains by senior officers;
- (iii) Monitoring of observance of these steps on regular basis; and

- (iv) For taking strict disciplinary action against delinquents.

The following precautionary and remedial steps are taken/to be taken by F.C.I., and State Government agencies to check damages to central pool stocks of foodgrains:

- (i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff including senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit

Reduction in cereals for APL families

1912. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, there is a cut-down in quantity of supply of cereals for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) masses under the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of allocation of materials for APL and BPL schemes under PDS for 2009-10 and 2010-11, State-wise and quantity-wise?