

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is grave discontent among the staff and the people of surrounding areas, due to this incident; and
- (d) if so, the measures adopted, to resolve this so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) One employee named Shri Madan Behera Ex-Dumper Operator of Ananta Opencast Project of MCL suffered a snake bite near his residence. He was admitted in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Nehru Satabdi Central Hospital on 02.07.2011. He was given necessary medical treatment there. When he developed complications, he was referred to Aswini Hospital, Cuttack, which is on the panel of referral hospitals of MCL. He died there on 5.7.2011

(c) and (d) There is grave discontent among the stall and people of surrounding areas. However, Talcher Koyla Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) led a mob along with the dead body and assembled at CM Office, Jagannath Area at about 4.45 p.m. on 06.07.2011 demanding immediate employment to the wife of the deceased employee. Management of Jagannath Area offered to give employment to the dependent wife of the deceased employee within 10 days of submission of all the required documents under dependent employment scheme.

Norms for buffer stock of foodgrains

793. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the stocks of foodgrains like rice, wheat, etc., in the country as on June 30, 2011;
- (b) the foodgrains required to be kept in stock, as per the buffer norms;
- (c) whether it is not a fact that even after taking into account the buffer norms, the country has huge stocks of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, whether it is a fact that many States, particularly the rice producing States, are demanding for export of rice so as to benefit the farmers; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for not allowing the export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The stock of rice and wheat in Central Pool as on 1.7.2011 was 640.06 lakh tons comprising 268.57 lakh tons of rice and 371.49 lakh tons of wheat. This is against the buffer norm of 319 lakh tons of both rice and wheat as of 1st July, indicating an excess stock of 321.06 lakh tons. In addition, 1.22 lakh MTs of coarse grains was also available.

(d) and (e) Requests from State Governments namely, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have been received demanding export of certain premium varieties of non-basmati rice and boiled rice. Government has allowed, *vide* Notification dated the 10th February, 2011, export of 1 lakh tons of 'Sona Masuri' and 25,000 tons each of 'Ponni Samba' and 'Matta' type of non-basmati rice. Further, *vide* notification dated the 19th July, 2011, it has permitted export of 10 lakh tons of non-basmati rice on private account.

Increase in procurement of foodgrains

794. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has urged Government that procurement of foodgrains needs to be increased substantially to meet the foodgrain requirement in the next few years;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether the storage capacity for foodgrains has been increased by FCI/Government during the last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government to maintain sufficient stocks of foodgrains in view of the possibility of implementation of Food Security Law in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The National Food Security Act is in the process of being finalized. The likely requirement of foodgrains to implement the provisions of the Act will be firmed up when the Act is finalized. The Government is taking necessary measures to enhance foodgrain procurement in view of the likely increase in the requirement of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act.

(c) and (d) A statement showing increase in storage capacity of FCI is at given in the Statement. (See below). During last three financial years *i.e.* from 31.3.2008 to 31.3.2011, FCI has created an additional storage capacity of 77.16 lakh tonnes.

(e) Government is taking steps to increase foodgrains procurement in those States where procurement is lower than the national average, by strengthening procurement machinery in those States and by encouraging States to adopt Decentralised Procurement (DCP) system. Government has also been suitably increasing MSP payable to farmers in the last few years so that farmers get adequate return on their crop and are motivated to grow more foodgrains.