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6.	Assam	Entire payment to the farmers against paddy procured is made through Account Payee Cheques.
7.	Haryana	Payment of MSP is being made in Cash through Arthiyas. However, bonus is paid through cheques.
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Payment to the farmers is made through authorised agents by account payee cheques.
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Payment to farmers is made through Account Payee cheques.
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Account Payee Cheques are issued by FCI and IKP (SHG engaged by Government of Andhra Pradesh) to the farmers.
11.	Kerala	Payment is made to the farmers' accounts directly.
12.	Maharashtra	Payment is made through account payee cheques or direct transfer to the farmers' account.
13.	Gujarat	Payment is made through account payee cheques to farmers.
14.	Chhattisgarh	Payment is through Account Payee Cheques.
15.	Uttarakhand	Account Payee cheques were issued to the farmers during procurement in RMS 2011-12.
16.	Jharkhand	FCI is making payment of the procurement amount to the farmers through Account payee/bearer cheques.
17.	Tamil Nadu	Payment is being made in cash on the spot.
18.	Orissa	Payment of paddy procured is by account payee cheque or through online bank transfer by the State agencies.
19.	Delhi	Foodgrains are procured through Arthiyas and payment to the arthiyas is made through cheques.
20.	West Bengal	Payment is not being made through cheques.
21.	Himachal Pradesh	Payment is being released through account payee cheques.

#### **Prices of vegetables**

2802. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to reduce the prices of vegetables which have seen a huge increase during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The retail prices of vegetables such as potato and tomato showed steady to declining trend whereas the prices of onion had registered a marginal increase over the last two years in 4 metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Seasonal factors as well as weather impact on the prices of vegetables. Government had taken various steps to reduce the prices of vegetables such as onion by calibrating the minimum export price (MEP) of onion to control the exports of onion and thereby contain their price rise. For instance, in December, 2010, Government reduced the import duty of onion to zero. NAFED and NCCF were authorized to import onion and losses on account of import were reimbursed to NAFED/NCCF on sales of onion, with a cap on the losses at 30% of landed cost for a period of one month upto 31.1.2011. In addition, Government of India provides assistance under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) schemes for increasing production and setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies to ensure adequate supply of fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers.

#### **Rotting of foodgrains**

†2803. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for rotting of wheat and other foodgrains stocked in Government warehouses in various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has discontinued the grant scheme aimed at encouraging the construction of warehouses and if so, whether this scheme would be revived;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has recently ordered the Government to distribute surplus foodgrains among poor instead of letting it to rot;

(d) if so, whether Government is acting on court's decision; and

(e) the places where such foodgrains have already been distributed, as on date?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.