

supervision and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rests with the concerned State/UT Government.

State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have not reported any incidence of starvation.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 14.5.2011 has directed the Government of India, that to ensure no starvation deaths may take place and people can be saved from malnutrition as far as possible, to reserve 5 million tonnes of foodgrains for allocation to the 150 poorest districts or other poorer segments of the society. Pursuant to the above orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the recommendations made by the Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System, additional allocation of 3.87 lakh M.Ts of rice and wheat have been made for three months to 74 districts in thirteen States.

(f) Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops and greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at different levels and introduction of new technologies such as computerization of TPDS operations.

Containing prices of fruits and vegetables

2811. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

(a) whether prices of vegetables and fruits including onion, tomato, garlic and apple have risen in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons therefor, item-wise;

(c) whether the increase in the export quota of the same including onion has contributed to the rise in prices of such produce;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The wholesale price indices of Fruits and Vegetables which include onion, tomato, apple and garlic, has reduced from the level of 206.6 during the month of January, 2011 to the level of 191.4 during the month of July, 2011, registering a decline of 7.35%.

(c) to (e) There is no export quota for fruits and vegetables, including onion. 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.

Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) scheme, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to development of horticulture including production of planting material, area coverage, rejuvenation/replanting of senile orchards, protected cultivation, organic farming, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management/Integrated Pest Management, Primary Processing and development of Post Harvest Management and Marketing infrastructure.

The component of market Infrastructure includes rural primary markets, wholesale markets and terminal market complexes. For rural primary markets credit linked back ended subsidy @ 40% in general areas and @ 55% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of Rs. 20.00 lakh is available. For wholesale markets credit linked back ended subsidy @ 25% in general areas and @ 33.33% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of Rs. 100.00 lakh is available. For terminal market complex, under PPP mode, assistance @ 25% to 40% (limited to Rs. 50.00 crore) of project cost of Rs. 150.00 crore, which includes 25% as floor subsidy plus 15% as subsidy on bidding is available.

Further, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a new programme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC), during 2011-12 under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Scheme is being implemented in one city in each of the 29 States having a population of one million and above, except seven States in the North East (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) and Goa, in which case urban clusters of less than one million or capital city has been selected. Initially, the programme will be implemented for a period of one year (2011-12).

Availability of godowns

‡2812. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government does not have sufficient godowns for storage of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of foodgrains rotten due to shortage of godowns during the last five years;
- (d) whether Government has fixed any accountability for this lapse; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has a total of 334.47 lakh MTs of storage capacity including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 89% as on 31.7.2011. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (See below). CAP is also a scientific method for storage of foodgrains. The State Agencies also store foodgrains.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.