

Wastage of wheat

2806. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that huge quantity of wheat worth crores of rupees has been found lying unclaimed recently on the railway track near Naini of Allahabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 300 farmers have died in Bundelkhand region due to indebtedness and other reasons; and

(c) whether wastage of foodgrains is a criminal act and if so, the reasons for not filing FIRs against the persons responsible for such wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As informed by FCI, a rake containing 65,803 bags of wheat was received at Railhead Naini between 15.7.2011 and 18.7.2011. Due to rains as well as spillage from cut and torn gunnies, bags got affected as Naini Railhead has no covered sheds. The entire stock of wheat has been transported to CWC godowns at Naini. Thus, no stock of wheat is lying unclaimed at Naini Railhead.

(b) No such deaths have been reported to the Ministry.

(c) FCI has informed that incidence of each case of damage to foodgrain is examined and appropriate disciplinary action is taken against the delinquents invariably.

Wastage of wheat in Rajasthan

†2807. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details indicating the quantity of wheat spoiled in Rajasthan at different places during the last two years for lack of storage facilities, location-wise; and

(b) the person responsible for it and the details of action taken by Government against them till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As reported by Food Corporation of India, there is no damaged wheat on account of lack of storage capacity in Rajasthan during last two years.

Prices of vegetables and fruits

†2808. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether steep increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits has been registered recently in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to develop a national market to ensure adequate supply of vegetables and fruits and also to contain the prices of such produces;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons behind Government's intention; and
- (e) the other steps taken to check the steep rise in the prices of vegetables and fruits in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been a mixed trend in the prices of vegetables and fruits over the last seven months. Weather and seasonal factors affect the prices of vegetables and fruits. The details of the monthly wholesale price index of vegetables and fruits, during January, 2011 to July, 2011 is given in Statement (See below).

(c) to (e) 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). Besides the minimum export price (MEP) of onion is calibrated to control the exports of onion and contain their price rise.

Statement

The WPI of Fruits and vegetables during the January, 2011 to July, 2011

Year 2011	WPI of Fruits and Vegetables
January	206.6
February	165.1
March	165.9
April	193.9
May	181.6
June	185.9
July	191.4

Source: DIPP

Mandatory testing of CFL bulbs

2809. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the packaged water, CFL bulbs etc. are being marketed by the companies without mandatory testing by licensees under its compulsory ISI mark scheme;
- (b) if so, what has been done by BIS in this regard;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that many goods which come under mandatory testing are not being tested regularly and testing, checking, etc. have been outsourced by Government without due process of law; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No such case relating to packaged water and CFL bulb has been brought to the notice of Government.

As per certification scheme of BIS for any product, it is mandatory for the licensees to follow Scheme of Testing and Inspection (STI). This stipulates frequency of testing from raw material stage to finished product stage including intermediate checks. This also ensures conformity to standard before release of the product in the market with ISI Mark. In case it is found that licensee is not complying with the STI, deterrent action like warning/stop marking/expiry/cancellation of licence is taken. In case of product under Mandatory Certification Scheme like Packaged Drinking Water or CFL bulbs, [stop marking] orders of BIS leads to closure of Industry.