

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether present storage capacity is adequate, considering the increase in procurement; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to increase the storage capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The procurement of foodgrains is open-ended and no targets are fixed for procurement. As per existing policy of Government of India, all quantities of wheat, rice and coarse grains conforming to the FAQ specifications brought by the farmers are purchased by FCI and State agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India has a total of 333.63 lakh MTs of storage capacity including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 90% as on 15.7.2011. The State agencies also store foodgrains. Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP), the Government formulated a Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State-wise capacity requirement and locations were identified. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring to the private entrepreneurs. A capacity of 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this sanctioned capacity tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs.

Supply of sugarcane to sugar mills

†2825. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any idea or proposal has been received to remove mandatory condition of supplying sugarcane to sugar mills;

(b) whether steps have been taken to give freedom to mill owners and sugarcane farmers to fix the prices of sugarcane apart from fixing support price; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether any limit has been fixed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for payment to the sugarcane grower by producer of sugar, for the sugarcane purchased by him, either the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane fixed by the Government or the price agreed to between the producer and the sugarcane grower, as the case may be. State Governments of many sugar producing States are announcing State Advised Price (SAP) which is higher than FRP fixed by the Government.

Impact of inflation on the poor

†2826. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor families are most affected due to food inflation in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the percentage of expenditure incurred by the poor, the medium and the high class consumers to meet their food requirements out of total expenditure incurred by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has already taken steps to protect the poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg. for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg. for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg. for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg. for AAY. The Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 10/- kg. for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg. per month is implemented in some States. A Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg. for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month is going on in some States.

(c) Details are given in Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.