

### Food Security Bill

2813. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is bringing the Food Security Bill in this Parliament Session to give adequate food supply to all the needy families of the country; and

(b) whether Government is proposing to create more space by constructing new warehouses and godowns for storage of foodgrains by the Central Government, the State Governments and Private Agencies and individuals; and

(c) whether Government has prepared any action plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Based on recommendations of the National Advisory Council (NAC) and Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and comments/suggestions received from the Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, experts and other stakeholders, the Government have prepared a draft National Food Security Bill. After consultations with States and Union Territories on the Draft Bill, approval of Government at the appropriate level will be obtained before its introduction in the Parliament.

(b) and (c) To strengthen and augment the covered storage capacity of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) 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). Assessment of additional storage needs under the scheme is based on the overall procurement/consumption and the storage space already available. A capacity of about 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. This Department has also prepared a proposal for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States by FCI with a total allocation of Rs. 568.17 crores. The proposal has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

### Prices of pulses

†2814. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been adequate production of pulses this year resulting in the reduction of prices thereof in the open market;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.