

(c) and (d) The Government has since considered their demand and allowed export of upto 10 lakh tons of sugar during 2011-12 sugar season under Open General Licence.

Uniform policy for procurement

662. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of procurement policy of Government with regard to foodgrains;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is no uniform policy of procurement throughout the country;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of reasons why, instead of FCI, rice millers, in majority, procure foodgrains in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the efforts the Ministry is making to see that foodgrains in that State are procured by FCI and other Government agencies and money is paid in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Under the existing procurement policy, the Central Government extends price support, for paddy, coarse grains and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by farmers at specified centers are bought by the public procurement agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). The producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State agencies at MSP or in the open market, as is advantageous to them.

Government of India has also introduced Decentralised Procurement Scheme (DCP) from 1997-98. Under the DCP scheme foodgrains are procured and distributed by the State Governments themselves. At present, ten States/Union Territories have adopted DCP system of procurement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The procurement policy of Government of India is uniform throughout the country.

(d) and (e) The procurement of rice by the Government is done either through custom milled procured paddy or through levy route. Levy is imposed by the State Governments on rice millers for

delivering specified percentage of their output as levy rice. Government of Andhra Pradesh has stipulated 75% levy in the State. For levy rice, Millers procure paddy themselves and deliver levy rice to the Government. Payment to the millers is made on delivery of levy rice. Under custom milling FCI and state agencies procure paddy and get it custom milled. Payment for the paddy procured is made to the farmers immediately. Government of Andhra Pradesh is regularly pursued to increase direct procurement. The procurement of rice in Andhra Pradesh during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009 -10 was 72.77 lakh tonnes comprising of 69.75 lakh tones of Levy Rice and 3.02 lakh tonnes of CMR.

The procurement of rice in Andhra Pradesh increased to 96.10 lakh tones in KMS 2010-11 with 79.69 lakh tones of Levy Rice and increased procurement of 16.4 lakh tones of Custom Milled Rice.

Price rise due to commodity trading

†663. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) whether the prices of essential commodities have increased steeply due to commodity trading;
- (b) the names of items included under commodity trading;
- (c) the names of the food items that are kept out of commodity trading; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to impose a ban on commodity trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The recent rise in prices has been mainly in food items such as vegetables, meat, milk, fish and fruits which are not traded in the commodity futures exchanges.

(b) The list of the commodities that are included under commodity futures trading is given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) The list of food items that are traded on the Commodity Futures Exchanges is given in Statement-II (See below). The food items other than those stated in Statement-II are presently not traded on the Exchanges. Futures trading in tur, urad and rice is presently suspended.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.