

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government has extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized edible oils for further period of one year from 1.10.2011 to 30.09.2012 for import of upto 10 lakh tonnes of edible oils with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. There is no State-wise quota within the approved quantity. However, allocations of edible oils are made as per demand received from the States.

Lack of warehousing infrastructure

4070. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of warehousing infrastructure/facilities in the country which in turn is leading to rotting of food lying in the open;

(b) whether it is proposed to encourage private sector with certain incentives to bridge this gap;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States worst affected due to lack of such facilities; and

(e) the status of the proposal made by the Apex court for free distribution of foodgrains to the poor before it is rotten up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The storage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the Food Corporation of India as on 01.04.2012 was 336.04 lakh MTs, both owned and hired. The storage capacity with state agencies for storage of Central stock of foodgrains as on 31.03.2011 was about 291 lakh tonnes including both covered and CAP capacity. Thus, a total quantity of about 627 lakh tonnes of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains against the Central stock of 527 lakh tonnes as on 1.04.2012. However, some quantities of foodgrains get damaged due to rain, floods and natural calamities.

Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under 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. For the consuming areas, storage capacity is to be created to meet four months requirement of PDS and other Welfare Schemes in a State. For the procurement areas, the highest stock levels in the last three years are considered to decide the storage capacity required.

A capacity of 151.96 lakh tonnes is to be created under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations in 19 States. Out of this, for a capacity of about 107 lakh tonnes tenders have been finalised on the Private Investors including the capacities being constructed by CWC/SWCs on their own lands. The Government has also approved creation of a capacity of 20 lakh tonnes in silos within the overall storage requirements of Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Public Private Partnership mode. The Government has also finalised a plan for construction of an additional total storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States. Further, for the State's own intermediate storage, capacities are being created within the States under various schemes like Rural Godown Scheme and Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) being operated by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(d) The problem of storage space during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13 has been reported from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has taken steps to hire private godowns, space at rice mills to cater to the additional space required for storing wheat.

In Uttar Pradesh the State Government and FCI have initiated steps to hire the smaller godowns of 2000 MTs and 5000 MTs alongwith spaces available with Sugar Mills, Air Strips etc.

The problems of storage space in Punjab is due to increased procurement. As on 09-05-2012, a quantity of 118 Lakh tonnes has been procured against an estimate of 108 lakh tonnes for the procurement season. Likewise in Haryana, the procurement is 81 lakh tonnes as on 09-05-2012 against the estimate of 70 lakh tonnes. In Rajasthan procurement has been 9.69 lakh tonnes as on 09-05-2012 against estimate of 14 lakh tonnes.

To meet the increased requirement of storage space Executive Directors (Zones) and General Managers (Regions) of FCI have been given full powers for hiring of godowns for short term usage to store the procured foodgrains as per their requirement if the capacity available with FCI is not sufficient to store the foodgrains.

(e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 14.05.2011 and 14.09.2011 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 directed the Union of India, to reserve 5 million tonnes of foodgrains as a one-time measure, for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of society. Further, the Court directed that the above 5 million tonnes may be allocated on the recommendations of the Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa. In pursuance of the above directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government has allocated a quantity of 23.69 lakh tonnes and 15.40 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat for the additional BPL and AAY families in the identified poorest districts in 27 States during 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The above includes 1473 tonnes of foodgrains allocated in February, 2012 for one year to six districts in four States for running community kitchens to provide cooked food in places like Collectorates, City Hospitals, Bus Stops and in pockets inhabited by poor and vulnerable people in collaboration with Corporations/Public Sector Undertakings under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme.

MSP of wheat

†4071. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Rabi crop of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1,295 per quintal in April, 2012;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the farmers are forced to sell their wheat below this MSP in the grain markets of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Haryana; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.