

- At least 3 kg of foodgrains per person per month to be given to general category households, at prices not exceeding 50% of Minimum Support Price.
- Women to be made head of the household for the purpose of issue of ration cards.
- Nutritional support to women and children.
- Maternity benefit to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- End-to-end computerisation of TPDS.
- Three-tier independent grievance redressal mechanism.
- Social audit by local bodies such as Gram Panchayats, Village Councils etc.
- Meals for special groups such as destitute, homeless persons, emergency/disaster affected persons and persons living in starvation.
- Food Security Allowance in case of non-supply of foodgrains or meals.

#### **Minimum export price of Onion**

†4837. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has done away with the minimum export price of onions, to promote its export from the country;
- (b) if so, whether export of onion at any rate from the country is now allowed;
- (c) if so, whether Government has made any assessment of the availability of onion in the country from April to July; and
- (d) if so, the details of estimates and the demand of onion during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government has permitted export of onions without any Minimum Export Price (MEP) with effect from 8th May, 2012 for the period upto 2nd July, 2012 through Notification No. 116 (RE-2010)/2009-2014 dated 8th May, 2012.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) Production of onions as per estimates made are likely to be of the order of 157 lakh MT during 2011-12. For the period April to July, no specific assessment of the availability of onion in the country is available. The demand for onion is reported to be more or less stable throughout the year.

#### **Procurement in Odisha**

4838. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that FCI has neither taken effective steps to achieve the target of procurement in Odisha nor to receive Custom Milled Rice (CMR) from Paddy Procuring Agents, inspite of having sufficient godown space and technical manpower;

(b) the reasons for above situation and whether one of the reasons is pushing more wheat into the godowns in the State, in spite of less demand by consumers; and

(c) the measures being taken to remedy the above situation and also to enhance storage capacity under various schemes including Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. No such reports have been received. However, Odisha being a decentralized Procurement (DCP) State, the State Government is responsible for procurement of rice, use the same for its PDS requirement and hand over the balance, if any, to FCI for the Central Pool. During the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2011-12, Odisha State Agencies have procured about 21 lakh tonnes of rice. The annual allocation for the current year for the State's PDS requirement is about 20.5 lakh tonnes of rice, while FCI has taken over 2.71 lakh tonnes of rice from State agencies which is more than the surplus to be handed over by State Agencies to FCI for the Central Pool.

(c) and (d) As on 1.4.2012, a total storage capacity of 9.62 lakh tonnes was available in Odisha. Out of this, 5.98 lakh tonnes was available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and 3.64 lakh tonnes was available with State agencies. Against this capacity on 1.5.2012, only 2.04 lakh tonnes of wheat stocks were available in Odisha. To increase the covered storage capacity for central pool stocks of foodgrains, the Government has launched the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) scheme. A capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states under the PEG scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State