

about 90,75 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.4 and 14.75 lakh tonne respectively under the Scheme. The Government has also finalised a plan for construction of storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes by FCI in the North Eastern States.

To protect the Cover and Plinth (CAP) stocks from rain, sun etc. each stack is covered with a polythene cover. The polythene covers are tied with nylon ropes. The dunnage material is cleaned and disinfected.

Increase in prices of wheat and rice in PDS

2672. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to raise the prices of wheat and rice distributed through ration shops to bring down its food subsidy bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has pegged the food subsidy bill for 2012-13 at Rs. 75,000 crore and the Ministry was under immense pressure to raise the prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the proposal might be more difficult to implement since the proposed National Food Security Bill promises grain at rates cheaper than the current rate at which they are sold at ration shops; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to raise prices of wheat and rice distributed under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Ministry of Finance has allocated Rs. 74551.99 crore for Budget Estimate (B.E.) 2012 -13 for food subsidy. Requirement of additional funds will be projected to the Finance Ministry as per actual requirement during the Revised Estimate (R.E.) stage.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Rotten foodgrains

2673. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains that got rotten in the godowns of various food agencies;