

(c) The cost involved in this and how the funds would be arranged and by when it would be implemented; and

(d) how this new system would help the Government and the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Department of Food and Public Distribution is preparing a National Foodgrain Movement Plan for movement of foodgrains in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Railways. However, no such decision has been taken to pump in special purpose vehicles for transportation of food grains throughout the country.

**Storage facility for bumper crops**

2671. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is expecting a bumper wheat crop;

(b) whether the Ministry has made necessary arrangements for storing the foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the details of arrangements made to protect the foodgrains from vagaries of monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the 2nd Advance Estimates the production of wheat for the Crop Year 2011-12 is expected to be 883.14 lakh tonnes with a corresponding projected procurement of 318 lakh tonnes in the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13, as compared to a production of 868.74 lakh tonnes in the Crop Year 2010-11 and a procurement of 283.85 lakh tonnes in the RMS 2011-12.

(b) and (c) To increase the storage facility available with FCI, and to meet any increased storage requirements, 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.

Further, due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under Cover and Plinth (CAP), the Government formulated the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) 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. Tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of

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;