

(e) Yes, Sir. Futures trading in gold and silver has been allowed at four National Exchanges viz., Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX), National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX), National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (NMCE) and Indian Commodity Exchange Ltd. (ICEX). The futures market offers a platform for price discovery and price risk management. The Exchanges propose the contracts to be launched based on the needs of the hedgers and other stakeholders. The Forward Markets Commission approves the launch of the contracts that are proposed to be traded on the Commodity Futures Exchanges. The Commission has initiated several measures to protect the interest of investors/clients such as issuance of contract notes by member to clients within 24 hours of the transactions, segregation of client funds from the members own funds, necessary provisions in the byelaws for protection of client interests, quarterly settlement of client accounts, SMS and Email alerts to investors/clients by Exchanges, common KYC across Exchanges, Jago Grahak Jago campaign for investor education, installation of price ticker boards for price dissemination, disclosure of information regarding percentage of proprietary trade and client trade done on the trading platforms of the Exchanges, setting up of Investor Protection Fund, Do's and Don'ts for clients, awareness programmes *etc.*

Offloading of foodgrains

2348. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has proposed for offloading of 13 million tonnes of foodgrains through ration shops and open market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that EGoM has given the approval for 8 million tonnes only; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Proposal for release of additional 10 million tonnes of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and sale of 3 million tonnes of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) were submitted to Empowered Group, of Ministers (EGoM) for consideration. Taking into consideration the overall stock position, buffer and strategic reserve norms, existing allocations under TPDS & OMSS and subsidy implications *etc.*, the EGoM approved release of additional 5 million tonnes of foodgrains under TPDS and 3 million tonnes of wheat for sale under OMSS.