

Insufficient logistics and storage

†347. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of food products have increased all over the country due to insufficient logistics and shortage of storage facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to make food products being imported in India available at better prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Rise in the prices of essential food products are due to several factors such as shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather conditions, improvement in income and living standards, changes in dietary habits as well as insufficient logistics and shortage of storage facilities.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The measures taken to make imported food products available at better prices is given in Statement (*See* below). However, the prices of these imported items would depend on the prevailing international prices and the exchange rate in vogue.

Statement***Measures taken to ensure adequate food supplies by Government***

1. Reduced import duties to zero—for rice, wheat and onion, pulses, crude palmolein and to 7.5% for refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils.
2. The current import duty for import of raw/white/refined sugar including raw sugar imported by bulk consumers has been kept at 10%.
3. The scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs 10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month was in operation up to 30.6.2012.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

4. Extended the Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month up to 30.9.2012.

Glut of foodgrains

348. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been glut of foodgrains in the country and if so, the quantum of foodgrains available *vis-a-vis* storage facilities;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has written to various State Governments to create storage facilities through MNREGA; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the mechanism suggested for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stock of wheat and rice (including un-milled paddy in terms of rice) in central pool as on 01.08.2012 is as under:-

	(Fig. in lakh MT)
Wheat	475.26
Rice	285.03
TOTAL	760.20

The stock position statement as on 01.08.2012 is given in Statement (*See below*). Rice includes un-milled paddy of 104.68 lakh MT (70.14 lakh MT in terms of rice).

As on 31.07.2012 the total storage capacity available for Central Pool Stocks was 705.06 lakh MT, comprising of capacity with FCI (owned as well as hired) of 364.25 lakh MT and capacity with the State Agencies (excluding hired by FCI) of 341.35 lakh MT. State-wise stock position as on 01.08.2012 is at Annexure-I.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.