

Export of wheat

†1590. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to export wheat in view of its bumper crop;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of countries who have shown interest in purchasing wheat from India; and
- (d) the price at which Government proposes to sell wheat to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the record production, procurement and comfortable stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool stocks, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA) in its meeting held on 3-7-2012 has approved the export of 2 million tons of wheat in the financial year 2012-13 through the Central Public Sector Undertakings(CPSUs) of the Department of Commerce viz. State Trading Corporation (STC), Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and Projects and Equipments Corporation (PEC).

(c) and (d) Since the above exports are to be done by the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) through Global Tenders for various Indian ports and the participants are various overseas firms, the question of specific countries showing interest for purchasing Indian wheat in the instant case does not arise. As approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA) on 3-7-2012, the price of wheat is to be determined by individual tenders subject to floor price of US\$ 228 per metric ton. However, the rates quoted in tenders hitherto opened have been much above the floor price.

Contribution of forward markets in price rise

†1591. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the forward markets of the country are contributing in increasing the prices of foodgrains in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.