

Transportation of rotten foodgrains to breweries

†2510. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are rotting in FCI godowns;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that, in the name of evacuating rotten foodgrains from the godowns, these are transported free of cost to the breweries, but a hefty unaccounted amount is charged from the contractors of breweries;
- (c) whether the foodgrains are deliberately left to rot, so that these may be transported to the breweries without any hindrances; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to bring the act of rotting of foodgrains or causing foodgrains to rotten in FCI godowns under the category of criminal act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Foodgrains are not rotting in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns. However, some quantity may get damaged due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, it is not true, as reported by FCI. There is a prescribed procedure for the disposal of damaged/non-issuable foodgrains which is being strictly followed in FCI.

Procured foodgrains are stored in scientific covered godowns and Cover and Plinth (CAP) storages and prescribed code of practices are followed to maintain the quality of foodgrains and to avoid damage during storage.

(d) There is no proposal to bring the act of rotting of foodgrains or causing foodgrains to rotten in FCI godowns under the category of criminal act. However, if the foodgrains are damaged due to negligence of officials, strict disciplinary actions are taken against the delinquents.

Food price indices

2511. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.