

- (3) Various programmes like setting up of consumer courts, mediation center and Consumer Helpline in both Center and States have been undertaken.
- (4) With the objective of providing financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of consumer, create consumer awareness and strengthen consumer movement in the country particularly in rural areas Consumer Welfare Fund has been created. Substantial grant have been released to State Governments/UTs, NGOs and academic institutes for creating consumer awareness.
- (5) The Department carries out awareness campaigns on various consumer issues through print, electronic and outdoor mediums.

(b) to (e) Presently the consumer awareness campaigns are carried out on Doordarshan and private TV channels empanelled with DAVP on payment basis. No consultations have been made with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and private channels regarding making it mandatory for all TV channels to run slogan 'Jago Grahak Jago' for consumer awareness during prime time. Any such mandatory condition may not be legally sustainable.

#### **Allocation of BPL rice to Odisha**

3594. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state whether Government is considering the proposal of Odisha to enhance allocation of BPL rice from 27.76 lakh families to 42.32 lakh families, in view of the fact that, the 2011 Census has shown an increase in the number of families to 97 lakh from 86 lakh in 2001 Census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): There is no such proposal under consideration.

#### **Prices of rice and wheat**

3595. DR BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how Government would explain the rise in prices of rice and wheat despite their adequate stocks with Government agencies; and

(b) whether futures trading in these commodities contribute to rise in their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) The retail prices of rice during the last one year across the four metropolitan centres of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai show that the increase in prices was in the range of Rs.3-91/- per kg. During the same period, the rise in the retail prices of wheat was in the range of Rs. 3-4/- per kg.

The factors causing rise in prices include *inter alia* demand-supply dynamics along with rising fuel cost, changes in dietary habits as well as logistics and storage facilities.

(b) There are no futures trading in rice as the same is suspended since 27.02.2007. Rise in prices of wheat may not be directly attributed to futures trading in wheat as futures trading merely facilitates discovery of the likely prices of given commodity at future point of time depending upon the likely supply-demand scenario.

#### **Construction of godowns and warehouses in Tamil Nadu**

3596. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had allocated requisite amount for construction of godowns and warehouses in Tamil Nadu during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Central Government has made any steps to reduce the loss of foodgrains, due to rotting and spoilage by any other means from the warehouses and godowns;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and