

3. *Augmentation/modernization of Storage facilities in the form of SILOS :*

A storage of 20 lakh MT in the form of modern Silos on a PPP basis is being created.

Total entitlements under the Food Security Bill are presently estimated to be 61.2 million tonnes. Against this, FCI and State agencies have a total capacity of around 76 million tonnes. Further, capacity is likely to be added under the above mentioned scheme. Thus there would be sufficient storage capacity to store central food stocks required as per entitlements under the National Food Security Act.

**MSP for wheat and paddy**

\*133. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for wheat and paddy have been announced for Kharif crops of 2013-14 and if so, the prices for both the crops;

(b) whether the hike over last year's prices for wheat and paddy is very minimal and there has been disappointment among farmers;

(c) the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is aware that all agricultural input cost like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, agricultural wages etc. have gone up by many folds and if so, whether Government is reconsidering to revise the MSP upwards?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat for the 2013-14 season at Rs. 1400 per quintal. The MSP of paddy (common) and paddy (Grade A) has been fixed at Rs. 1310 per quintal and Rs. 1345 per quintal respectively. The MSPs of wheat and paddy have been fixed as recommended by the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter-alia*, cost of production changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. The increase in the prices of various inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, agricultural wages etc. is considered by CACP while recommending MSPs.

MSP of wheat at Rs. 1400 per quintal provides a return of 106.2% over all India weighted average paid out costs including family labour. MSP of paddy (common) provides a return of 36.3% over its all India weighted average paid out costs including family labour while the MSP of paddy (Grade A) provides a return of 39.9% over its all India weighted average paid out costs including family labour. The MSP fixed for wheat and paddy provides adequate return over all paid out costs including family labour. Hence, there is no proposal to review the MSPs of wheat and paddy.

#### **Recent incident of safety negligence**

\*134. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently seven trains were allowed to run on the same line on Kanpur-Jhansi section due to serious negligence of Rail Traffic Controller but due to intelligent and dedicated drivers and other staff trains were stopped and a major accident was averted;

(b) if so, the action taken against Rail Traffic Controller and reward given to careful drivers, if any, by Railways;

(c) the details of steps taken by Railways to prevent such incidents in future; and

(d) whether Railways propose to have double check system of rail traffic control to prevent human error by single controller?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir. No safety violation has been reported in the running of trains in Kanpur-Jhansi section.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Procurement of crops**

\*135. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India and NAFED are not procuring hundred percent of the crops that come to the market and if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and