

Arrangements for stocking of wheat

*255 SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat available with Government in its buffer stock as on 31 December, 2013;

(b) the details of the arrangements made by Government for stocking of wheat procured during the current season; and

(c) the quantity of wheat to be procured during the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) The stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 31.12.2013 was 280.47 lakh tons.

(b) Total storage capacity with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies is 755.89 lakh tons which is sufficient to stock the foodgrains being procured by the Government for the Central Pool. Further, instructions have been issued for hiring of godowns for short term uses to store the food grains procured for Central Pool as per need. The State agencies have also been making sufficient arrangements for stocking of wheat during the current purchase season.

(c) 250.92 lakh tons of wheat has been procured during the current Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2013-14 so far.

Fire accidents in trains

*256 SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 35 persons were charred to death due to fire in non-AC coaches of Bandra-Dehradun Express and in AC coach of Bangalore-Nanded Express, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has announced compensation to kin of deceased and those who were injured;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of persons who have been paid compensation so far, if not, the reasons therefor, and