

(b) if so, the main reasons for recurrence of the disease along with its likely impact on the wheat production during the current year; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by Government to check spread of the disease in more areas, which may result in heavy losses to the wheat crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Wheat yellow rust has not appeared in large scale in the country including Haryana. However, it was observed in a few districts of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir in Rabi 2013-14 season.

(b) Wheat yellow rust started appearing from 2006-07 in parts of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh due to occurrence of pathotypes of *Puccinia striiformis*. The wheat production during the current year is not likely to be affected.

(c) Wheat yellow rust is being managed by taking various preventive measures like promotion of yellow rust resistant varieties, timely arrangement of fungicide, regular survey and surveillance, detection of disease through establishment of trap nurseries at various hotspot locations, organization of awareness campaigns and trainings, etc.

#### **Inflationary pressure due to APM Act**

2458. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees to a view that Agricultural Produce Marketing Act is serving the vested interests and is one of the reasons for creating the supply bottlenecks of agricultural produces and adding to the inflationary pressures in the economy;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to repeal this Act; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The State Agricultural Produce Marketing and Regulation Act (APMR Act) provide for establishment of a network of markets to ensure reasonable gains to farmers by creating an environment for fair play of supply and demand forces, regulate market practices and attain transparency in transactions. These markets have, however, over time become monopolistic and restrictive which has led to the emergence of vested interests such as cartels which restrict competition and prevent fair price discovery, defeating thereby the original objectives of the APMR Act.

The APMR Act through such provisions which insist on the compulsion of bringing the agri produce for transaction to the APMC market yard only, on the requirement of separate licenses for traders to transact in different APMC markets, on charging of market fees on notified agri produce at multiple points, has become one of the reasons for creating the supply side bottle-neck of agricultural produce. Additionally, high incidence of market fee/commission charges have added to the inflationary pressures in the economy.

(b) and (c) Agricultural marketing is the mandate of the State. While Government of India does not propose to advocate repeal of the Act, however, reform of Marketing Regulations of the States on lines of Model Act, 2003 is advocated.

**Per capita availability of foodgrains, milk, egg,  
fish, meat, vegetables and fruits**

2459. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of foodgrains, milk, egg, fish, meat, vegetables and fruits during 2013-14;

(b) the percentage of people in the country not able to buy these items; and

(c) whether it is due to shortage of production of items or failure of the distribution mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per the available data, per capita availability of foodgrains for 2013 is provisionally placed at 510.8 gms. per day. The per capita availability of milk during 2012-13 was 296.5 gms. per day.

As per the data available from Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during 68th Round (July, 2011-June, 2012), the per capita consumption of egg, fish, meat and dry fruits in quantitative terms and of vegetables and fresh fruits in value terms is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Consumption of specific items of foodgrains, milk, eggs, fish, meat, vegetables and fruits varies from place to place and within different sections of people depending upon the preferences of the consumers, their cultural values, income levels etc.