

through Private Entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) and State agencies. Under this scheme, a capacity of 202.22 lakh ton has been approved for construction at various locations in 20 States. Out of which, a capacity of 20 lakh ton would be created in the form of modern silos. As on 31.10.2014, a capacity of 120.67 lakh ton in the form of conventional godowns has been completed.

Storage capacity in Maharashtra

1474. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the shortage of storage capacity, both at the Centre and State level, in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) how far the measures taken in the past have helped to bridge the gap between requirement and availability of storage capacity in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the details of measures proposed to be taken to make additional storage capacity in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) Yes, Sir. Storage gap was assessed based on existing capacity and capacity required to store 4 months PDS requirements. A capacity of 5.83 Lakh MT was approved for construction of godowns in Maharashtra in Public Private Partnership mode.

(b) and (c) Average monthly allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS) in Maharashtra is about 4 Lakh MT. As on 31/10/2014, the storage capacity available with FCI in Maharashtra is 19.87 Lakh MT, which is sufficient to store foodgrains of more than 4 months' requirement. Thus, the storage gap has been bridged.

E-commerce in the country

1475. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the market for e-commerce by Flipcart, Snapdeal, Jabong is gradually growing in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether instances of irregularities in the functioning of e-commerce have come to the notice of Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the factors hindering the growth of e-commerce in the country along with the remedial action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) At present no official data on e-commerce industry is being compiled/available.

(b) No such formal complaint has been received.

(c) As per available information the major hurdles for growth of domestic e-commerce include poor infrastructure specially low internet penetration and absence of specific regulatory frame work.

Regulation of online retailing

1476. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI AVINASH PANDE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated or is planning to formulate any rules, regulations and policy in respect of online retailing, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to monitor and regulate online business in order to bring clarity and transparency in e-commerce retail business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) At present there is no single set of law/regulations to govern e-commerce industry and therefore e-commerce activities come under the purview of different laws like Information Technology Act, 2000, Contract Law, Indian Penal Code, etc. E-commerce industry is also required to comply with other business laws like Company Law, Labour Law, Income Tax Laws etc. and also compliance with existing banking and financial norms applicable.

Keeping in view the increased number of online fraud/cheating cases, the Government has also initiated steps for incorporating sufficient provisions for protection of consumers of online shopping/e-commerce under Consumer Protection Act, 1986.