

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : इस देश की एकता, अखंडता और धार्मिक सौहार्द बनाए रखने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Question Hour is not taken up, the Chair has no option but to adjourn the House. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : प्रधानमंत्री अपनी जिम्मेदारी से ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: आपकी डिक्टेसन से सरकार नहीं चलेगी ...(व्यवधान)... न आपकी डिक्टेसन से सरकार चलेगी और न ही आपकी मेहरबानी से सरकार है। सरकार देश की मेहरबानी से है, देश की जनता ने जनादेश दिया है। आपकी मेहरबानी से सरकार नहीं चल रही है। ...(व्यवधान)... हम संविधान का सम्मान करते हैं और इसलिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at eight minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Allocation of rice and wheat for tea garden workers in Assam

*336. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Assam more than 20 lakh tea garden workers and their dependents are being allocated rice and wheat foodgrains by the Central Government for the last more than 50 years;

(b) whether there is any planning by the Central Government to discontinue the age old practice of allocation of foodgrains for the welfare of tea garden workers and their dependents in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) While Government of India allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) to Assam under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the responsibility for proper identification of beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them within the ceiling prescribed under the TPDS, lifting of the allocated foodgrains and their proper distribution within the State to the eligible beneficiaries through the network of fair price shops (FPSs) rests with the State Government.

Government of Assam has however informed that the State Government is presently allocating 7600 MT of APL rice and 5000 MT of APL wheat per month to Tea Associations for distribution amongst the Tea Garden workers.

Gaps in cold chain infrastructure

*337. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 30 per cent of fruits and vegetables grown in the country get wasted annually due to gaps in cold chain;

(b) whether gaps in cold chain result in farmers not getting remunerative price and impoverishment resulting in farmers' frustrations and suicides;

(c) whether Government is considering using refrigerated containers with solar photovoltaic panels fixed on their rooftops independent of power grid, to transport freshly harvested produce, strategically placed at various locations in farms across the country to close gaps in the cold chain; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) A study published in 2012 by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, estimated overall losses in fruits and vegetables during operations such as harvesting, cleaning, sorting/grading, packaging, transportation, storage channels, weight loss in storage etc. to be in the range of 5.8 to 18%.

To mitigate such losses and ensure that farmers get better value for their produce, Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture to incentivise pre-production, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing infrastructure including use of multi-modal refrigerated containers and renewable energy including solar photovoltaic panels in the cold chain for which credit linked assistance of the admissible cost is available at the rate of 35% in general areas and 50% in hilly and scheduled areas.

Revival of loss making textile mills

*338. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile industry is one of the largest employment giving sectors for the unskilled people in the country;