

Pension scheme in FCI

3070. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, food and PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) how much foodgrains were bought, stored and distributed by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during last three years;
- (b) how many employees were working in it during these years and whether they are covered under a pension scheme;
- (c) if not, whether it was not approved in principle by Government earlier; and
- (d) whether Government would take immediate steps to put pension scheme in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) The total quantum of foodgrains procured and stored in central pool during each of last three years is as under.

(Fig. in LMT)

Marketing Year	Wheat	Rice
2011-2012	283.34	350.60
2012-2013	381.48	340.44
2013-2014	250.92	318.40

Food Corporation of India (FCI) issues foodgrains against the allotment made by Government under various schemes to State/UT Governments. The responsibility of further distributions to end consumers rests with the concerned State/UT Governments.

Wheat and rice lifted by the States from the Central Pool stocks against the allotment under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA)/ Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) during the last three years is as under:-

(Figs. in lakh MTs)

Year	Wheat		Rice		Total	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2011-12	324.77	242.68	384.20	320.54	708.97	563.22
2012-13	436.00	332.42	366.65	326.41	802.65	658.83
2013-14	381.58	306.14	344.31	291.98	725.89	598.12

(b) Number of FCI's working employees (Staff and Officers) in last three years (as on 31st March) is given below:

Year	Employees
2011-2012	29434
2012-2013	26716
2013-2014	22480

At present the retired employees of FCI are entitled for the Pension on the basis of monthly contribution deposited in Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Memorandum of settlement signed between the Management of FCI and its staff unions on 1.4.2010 provides for implementation of a liberalized Pension Scheme, however, Government has not approved any such scheme due to financial commitment involved in it.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

3071.SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of factors responsible for increase in prices of essential commodities;

(b) the measures Government has taken to control the prices and by when we would be self sufficient in essential commodities; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) Rise in the prices of essential food items are normally due to factors such as adverse weather conditions, insufficient logistics and storage facilities, artificial shortages created through hoarding and black marketing.

(b) and (c) Government has initiated several measures on the prices front to improve availability of essential commodities such as import of various items of mass consumption at zero or concessional import duties together with restriction on export, prescribing stock holding limits under Essential Commodities Act, allocation of foodgrains at affordable prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) etc. The recent steps initiated