

Wastage of foodgrains

2645. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of warehousing and godown facilities a large quantity of foodgrains are wasted in the open;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India ranks 67th among 81 countries in the 2011 Global Hunger Index, prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute whereas a large quantity of grain continue to rot in godowns; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address the above serious issue?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is sufficient storage capacity for Central stock of foodgrains and there is no rotting or damage of foodgrains due to shortage of godowns.

(b) and (c) The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is prepared annually by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) which ranks countries combining three equally weighted indicators *i.e.* undernourishment, child underweight and child mortality. The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale in which zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is worst.

As per the GHI Report of 2011, India was at 67th position among 81 countries. In the latest report of 2014 brought out by IFPRI, India is now placed at 55th position among 120 countries. India's score has come down from 31.2 in 1990 to 17.8 in 2014 and hence India is improving in the hunger index.

Fixing of MRP

†2646. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the MRP system keeping in view that manufacturers imprint very high prices on their products under whole sale prices;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether Government also intends to formulate a law under which MRP cannot be printed beyond a certain percentage of profit; and

(d) if so, by when the said law is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.