

1	2	3	4	5
Urad	57	37	16	18783
Moong	98	72	18	8227
Sugarcane	398	361	310	36000
Potato	42	32	2	8625
Groundnut	64	45	11	15509
Coconut	228	86	19	9571
Soyabean	79	57	36	45017
Cotton	204	154	69	57158
Jute	154	91	6	9038

Damage to foodgrains due to open-air-storage

2632. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains are damaged due to open-air-storage of grains by FCI, if so, the quantity of foodgrains damaged due to open-air-storage during the last three years; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the High Level Committee chaired by Shri Shanta Kumar has recommended for phasing out of open-airstorage of grains, if so, the reaction of Government to this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) Central pool foodgrains are stored by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in covered godowns and Covered and Plinth (CAP) in scientific manner. Wheat and Paddy are sometimes stored in CAP storage for a short period due to logistic constraints during procurement season. In spite of all precautions some quantity may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons. Quantity of wheat damaged/become non-issuable in CAP storage during last three years in FCI is as under:

Year	Quantity in tons
2011-12	1557
2012-13	225
2013-14	580
2014-15 (up to 01.02.2015)	963

(b) Yes, Sir. High Level Committee chaired by Shri Shanta Kumar has recommended that open storage be gradually phased out. Foodgrains are stored in a scientific manner in the Cover and Plinth (CAP) which is a short-term arrangement for storage of foodgrains when the covered capacity is fully utilized. Covered storage is being progressively augmented with an objective to limit storage under CAP. However, FCI has decided to continue to use suitable CAP structures in such a manner that stock is lifted from there within 6-8 months.

Rise in prices of food items

2633. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:

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

(a) whether prices of most food items have been inching up relentlessly throughout the past year despite several reforms in management of food supply chains, if so, the details of food items whose prices have increased and the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the details of food items whose prices have dropped during the said period; and

(c) the steps undertaken by Government to curb increase in prices of basic food items like winter vegetables, onions and pulses like masoor, arhar, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Based on the price details received from 68 centres across the country, over the past year (*i.e.* Jan. to Dec., 2014) the monthly average retail prices of rice, pulses (except gram dal), Vanaspati and vegetables like potato, tomato and onion showed a rise, while that of gram dal and edible oils (except Vanaspati) declined and prices of wheat and sugar remained stable as per details given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Prices of essential commodities are affected by several factors such as adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black-marketing.

(c) The specific steps initiated by the Government to contain price rise of essential food items are given in Statement-II (*See below*).