(b) whether as per (a) above, the Centre would provide the amount of the subsidy without further delay to the State along with the amount of ₹ 672.85 crores for rice under various schemes which has not yet been paid to the State?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) As per calculation done by this Department, an amount of ₹ 663.11 crore was payable to Chhattisgarh as provisional subsidy for distribution of rice from April to December, 2014, out of which an amount of ₹ 332 crore has been released to the State so far leaving a balance of ₹ 331.11 crore yet to be released.

Further, an amount of ₹ 745.47 crore has been found to be admissible to the State as advance food subsidy from January to March, 2015, which is yet to be released.

(b) Pending subsidy will be released to the State without further delay on availability of funds as per supplementary demand for grants. In this regard, it is also informed that in addition to release of subsidy under DCP Scheme, payment is also made by FCI to State Agencies for delivery of Rice for Central Pool. As per information made available by FCI as on 15.03.2015, all payments due to Chhattisgarh for delivery of rice to FCI as per acceptable claims submitted by the State Agency has already been made. Further, against bill of claim of ₹ 225.39 crore submitted by MARKFED for transportation charges, amount due for transportation of paddy from society to storage point has been made and bill for transportation charges from storage point to mill have been returned due to non- submission of tagging list of mills and distance certificate.

Rotting of grains in godowns

†2643. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor working of State administrations concerning PDS is benefitting middlemen more than the intended beneficiaries;

(b) whether Government is taking concrete steps to deal with rotting of grains due to lack of State warehouses and storage of foodgrains in private godowns in several States; and

(c) whether preventive action is taken against the Government mechanisms for intentionally exploiting the rotting of grains in private and Government godowns for their own advantage and the extent of action taken over these during past five years?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the State/UT Governments concerned. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned, if required, for inquiry and appropriate action.

(b) and (c) There is sufficient capacity for storage of Central pool stock of foodgrains and there is no rotting or damage of foodgrains due to lack of godowns. Following steps are being taken to avoid damage / rotting of foodgrains in storage:–

(i) All FCI godowns are constructed as per specifications.

(ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices of the foodgrains.

(iii) Adequate damage materials, such as, wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check the migration of moisture from the floor.

(iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.

(v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in FCI godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.

(vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.

(vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.

(viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI including senior officers.

(ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

(x) Only covered wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.