

- Convert old conventional storages to Silos.
- Gradually phase out cover and plinth (CAP) with no gram stocks remaining in CAP for more than three months.
- Mechanization of operations in Food Storage Depots.
- Introduce a pro-active liquidation policy to off-load stocks in the market whenever they are in excess of buffer norms. Greater flexibility to FCI needed to operate in OMSS and export markets.
- De-notification of depots, fixing ceiling on incentives per worker and VRS to Departmental Labour.
- Condition of contract labour should be improved by giving them better facility.
- FCI to reorient into an agency for innovation in foodgrain management system.
- Use of HDPE rather than jute bags for packaging.
- End to End Computerization of food management system - Automation of FCI Operations

#### **Rise in price of fruits and vegetables**

577. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether price of fruits and vegetables and other essential items in the country have risen by upto 100 per cent between 31 January, 2014 to 30 January, 2015, if so, the item-wise details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the concrete and fresh efforts Government would take to check the price rise of essential items during 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The details based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are given in the Statement-I. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 575 (Part (a) and (b))].

Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to several factors such as adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints like storage facilities

for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black-marketing.

The recent steps initiated by the Government to contain price rise of essential food items including fruits and vegetables are given in the Statement-II. [*Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 575 (Part c)*].

#### **Coverage of NFSA**

578. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to reduce the coverage of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NFSA has not been implemented in all the States as yet; and

(c) if so, the States which have not implemented the NFSA, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE) : (a) No Sir. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is already in force and there is no proposal for any amendment to the Act.

(b) and (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. It *inter alia* provides for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Allocation of foodgrains to 11 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan has started under the Act based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries for coverage under the Act, reported by them.