(c) whether Government has issued any advisories/directives to the States for ensuring remunerative price to sugarcane growers and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Central Government fixes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane having regard to the factors mentioned in Clause 3(1) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 *viz.*, cost of production of sugarcane; return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities; availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price; price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers; recovery of sugar from sugarcane; realization made from sale of by-products *viz.* molasses, bagasse and press-mud or their imputed values; and reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits. The FRP so fixed is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders. FRP of sugarcane, linked to recovery rate, is uniform throughout the country and not fixed State-wise.

(b) Representations from Bhartiya Kisan Union and Indian Farmer Organisation of Uttar Pradesh seeking fixation of FRP of sugarcane for the sugar season 2015-16 respectively at ₹ 350 per quintal and ₹ 300 per quintal have been received. There is no proposal to revise the FRP of sugarcane for the sugar season 2015-16 which has already been fixed at ₹ 230 per quintal at basic recovery rate of 9.5% with a premium of ₹ 2.42 per quintal for every incremental increase of 0.1% in the recovery rate.

(c) There are standing provisions in the form of Clause 3(2) of the Sugarcane (Control) order, 1966 according to which the FRP is a benchmark guaranteed price of sugarcane determined by the Central Government below which no sugar mill can purchase sugarcane from cane growers.

Non-lifting of paddy by rice millers

†2321. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice millers of Chhattisgarh, by way of not lifting the procured paddy, are acting arbitrarily and exerting pressure due to which paddy is not being lifted;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the non-subsidised LPG connections connected to DBTL have been found to be fake and whether this matter will be probed in detail; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide five Kg. gas cylinders to the BPL card holders?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Paddy procurement and lifting of paddy for custom milling is underway in Chhattisgarh. In KMS 2015-16, 18.64 LMT of paddy has already been procured in Chhattisgarh till 11.12.2015, of which 6.81 LMT of paddy has been lifted by millers for custom milling.

(b) No, Sir. Non subsidized LPG connection is not connected to Direct Benefits Transfer for LPG (DBTL) and subsidy amount is not payable for such connections.

(c) As per the extant guidelines, Five Kg. connections are available to BPL card holders in case they prefer Five Kg. connection instead of 14.2 Kg.

Wastage of foodgrains

2322. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: 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 proper storage facilities, large quantity of foodgrains get damaged every year and become unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains damaged during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken by Government to ensure that foodgrains are preserved properly?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no report of damage to foodgrains due to shortage of storage facilities. Adequate storage capacity is available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies for storage of central pool stocks. As on 01.11.2015, storage capacity of 806.46 lakh ton (covered 626.49 lakh ton and CAP 179.97 lakh ton) is available with FCI and State agencies against central pool stock of 411.98 lakh ton.

Procured foodgrains are stored in scientific manner in covered godowns and in CAP (Cover & Plinth) storage. Scientific codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are followed during storage. Inspite of all precautions, some quantity of foodgrains may