

Shortage of pulses

†1668. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of buffer stock available to put a check on the prices of pulses;

(b) whether prices of pulses could not be controlled for want of adequate quantity of import thereof;

(c) the quantity of pulses imported in tonnes in last one year; and

(d) whether lack of coordination between the Ministries is creating problem in overcoming the shortage of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government has recently taken a decision to create a buffer stock of 1.5 lakh tonnes of pulses. Food Corporation of India (FCI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) have already procured 50,4225.21 tonnes of pulses.

(b) to (d) The recent increase in the prices of pulses was mainly on account of the lower domestic production due to adverse weather conditions. In addition, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing also put pressure on prices of pulses.

There is a demand-supply gap of 3-4 million tonne per annum in availability of pulses, which is met mainly through imports by private agencies. During 2015-16 (as on 11.02.2016), a total of 5.31 million tonnes of pulses has been imported *i.e.* 0.73 million tonnes higher than 4.58 million tonnes imported during 2014-15.

Officials of North Eastern Railway in agreed and secret lists of CBI and CVC

†1669. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such officers/employees of North Eastern Railway who are in Agreed List of CBI and Secret List of CVC and whether they have been deployed as per CVC guidelines;

(b) since when are the posts of Chief Commercial Manager, Passenger Service and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Marketing and Chief Commercial Manager, Freight Services in Marketing Department of North Eastern Railway lying vacant;

(c) whether suitable officers are not available for deployment at these posts; and

(d) whether officers have been deployed on these posts after downgrading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Four(4) officers of the North Eastern Railway are in the current Agreed List. All the four officers have been posted on non-sensitive posts as per CVC guidelines.

Eighteen(18) officers of North Eastern Railway are in the Secret list. Thirteen(13) of these officers are posted on non-sensitive posts as per CVC guidelines. Five (5) officers are working on sensitive posts; however, as per provisions of Indian Railway Vigilance Manual 2006, the financial powers have been withdrawn in respect of four(4) officers and one(1) officer is on long sick leave.

(b) In North Eastern Railway, the post of Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Services is vacant since 01.06.2015 and that of Chief Commercial Manager/Freight and Marketing since 24.09.2015.

(c) Suitable officers are posted against the posts falling vacant subject to availability, which is a continuous and ongoing process.

(d) At present, in North Eastern Railway, the post of Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Services is operated as Chief Traffic Planning Manager and the post of Chief Commercial Manager/Freight and Marketing is operated in lower grade as Dy. Chief Commercial Manager.

Implementation of the National Food Security Act

†1670. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court had recently commented on the non-implementation of the National Food Security Act by all States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether special efforts are being made by Central Government to ensure early implementation of the Act by all States after the said comment of the Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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