

[16 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Statement-II

Estimates for Procurement and Actual Procurement of Rice in States during KMS 2003-04

State	Rice*	(Quantity in Lakh Tonnes)
		Procurement of Rice [†] (upto 5.7.2004)
Madhya Pradesh	275	1.09
Chhattisgarh	19.00	22.53
Bihar	2.00	3.60
West Bengal	10.00	9.03
Maharashtra	2.50	2.74
Punjab	80.40	86.59
Assam	0.10	0.17
Haryana	18.50	13.34
Uttar Pradesh	16.00	24.88
Orissa	13.00	11.09
Uttaranchal	4.00	3.21
Jharkhand	0.10	0.02
Nagaland	0.05	—
Rajasthan	0.50	0.41
Andhra Pradesh	50.00	39.92
A&N Islands	0.10	Negligible
Tamil Nadu	1.00	2.07
TOTAL:	220.00	220.69

*Includes paddy in terms of rice.

FCI Wheat in open market

528. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1,00,000 tonnes of wheat dubbed as 'Cattle Feed' has found its way in the open market from the Food Corporation of India godowns depriving Government of precious revenue of around Rs. 23 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the 1.2 lakh tonnes of wheat with tags as 'Not fit for Human consumption' and 'Cattle feed' was sold in the open market; and

(c) if so, whether this process was carried out as per normal practice and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a news item had appeared in the Economic Times on 18th June, 2004 to this effect. The matter was enquired into by the Managing Director, Food Corporation of India and the allegations were found to be baseless.

Market Borrowings by FCI

529. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set up a steering Committee to go into the aspects of market borrowings for debt serving;

(b) whether it is also a fact that FCI was allowed to borrow Rs. 5000 crores from the market;

(c) if so, the details for which it is going to borrow from the market;

(d) whether FCI is seriously thinking of entering into commercial ventures such as export etc., and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India constituted a Working Group consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Finance and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution; Food Corporation of India, State Bank of India and SBI CAP to examine various issues relating to market borrowing programme of FCI. The report of the Working Group has been received by the Government.