

letters. The total number of persons empanelled for various Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' posts including safety category during last three years is 1,92,026.

Irregularities in procurement and storage of wheat in Punjab

†*224. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in its audit report has pointed out several irregularities in procurement of wheat and its storage in Punjab, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(b) whether huge difference in purchase and storage of wheat in Punjab by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has come to light;

(c) if so, the details of differences in records of wheat storage by FCI in Punjab during last three years; and

(d) the details of irregularities in procurement and storage of wheat and the amount withdrawn from banks that have come to light?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) No irregularities have been either pointed out by CAGs or come to the knowledge of the Government of India about procurement of wheat and its storage during last 3 years in Punjab Region. No difference has come to light in purchase and storage of wheat by FCI in Punjab. Also, no irregularity of procurement and storage of wheat in Punjab has come to light. No irregularities regarding amount withdrawn for procurement operations by Government of Punjab from the Banks has come to knowledge of the Government. However, there are Cash Credit Limit (CCL) outstandings owed by the Government of Punjab to the Banks.

Implementation of recommendation of Swaminathan Committee

*225. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact, including financial implications of implementation of the recommendation of Swaminathan Committee to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) at the rate of one and half times the cost of production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.