

Rotting of wheat in Punjab

†2217. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that lakhs of tonnes of wheat has rotten in Punjab due to lying in the open;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat which has rotten and the cost of the same; and

(c) the reasons owing to which the wheat could not be stored in the godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Storage of wheat is done in covered godowns/Cover and Plinth (CAP) based on availability of storage space in the procurement areas and then it is moved to consuming regions. No quantity of wheat was damaged in Food Corporation of India (FCI) Punjab Region in the CAP storage during the year 2011-12 to 2014-15 and 2016-17 upto 01.07.2016. However, a small quantity of 0.528 tonnes of wheat got damaged in FCI Punjab Region in CAP storage during 2015-16. The estimated value of this damaged wheat is ₹ 4594/-.

(c) Wheat procurement is done in the months of April to June every year during the Rabi Marketing Season. A large quantity of wheat is procured in a short period during procurement in Punjab. As a result wheat is also stored in CAP storage. The wheat stored in CAP is moved on priority basis.

Rise in price of sugar

†2218. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that owing to deregulation of sugar sector in the country, the prices of sugar are spiralling up by the day;

(b) if not, the details of retail prices of sugar during the financial years 2013-14 and 2015-16;

(c) whether Government has formulated any action plan to reduce the prices of sugar; and

(d) if not, how would Government Control the spiralling prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.