

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.

retail price of sugar depends upon various factors like demand, supply, availability, market sentiments etc. After deregulation of sugar sector in April, 2013 the All India average retail prices of sugar have slightly decreased from ₹ 35.6 per kg in financial year 2013-14 to ₹ 32 per kg in financial year 2015-16.

(c) and (d) To keep a check on rise in price of sugar, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turnover limits on sugar. Further, Government has imposed custom duty @ 20% on export of sugar to conserve stocks in the country and ensure its availability at reasonable prices.

Dues of subsidy amount of rice

†2219. 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 Chhattisgarh has procured 63.08 lakh tonne paddy in 2015, which will produce 42.26 lakh tonne of rice;

(b) whether out of that, Civil Supply Corporation had to get 10 lakh tonne rice and FCI 32.26 lakh tonne, but Civil Supply Corporation had got only 4.71 lakh tonne and FCI 5.66 lakh tonne rice only;

(c) whether Centre has not issued the subsidy of 100.19 crore on rice distributed in 2004-05 under the National Food of Work Programme; and

(d) whether as per part C, subsidy amount on rice since 2002-03 under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana has not been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A quantity of 51.07 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) of paddy for Central Pool and 12.02 LMT paddy for State Pool was procured by Chhattisgarh Government during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2014-15. Against 51.07 LMT paddy procured under Central Pool, 34.21 LMT Custom Milled Rice (CMR) was obtained, out of which a quantity of 23.487 LMT was received by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and 10.725 LMT was kept by the State Government for its requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Scheme (OWS).

(c) and (d) An amount of ₹ 72.32 crore has been released to the Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. (CSCSC Ltd.) as provisional subsidy for distribution of rice under National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) for the period 01.04.2004 to 31.03.2006, against claim ₹ 96 crore for KMS 2004-05 and

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