

(c) the reasons for not being able to contain wholesale and retail inflation as per estimates time and again?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) As per the latest Second Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17 of the Reserve Bank of India issued on June 7, 2016, inflation is projected to remain around 5 per cent during 2016-17 with an upside bias.

(b) The retail inflation as captured by Consumer Price Index is based on basket of commodities and services broadly consists of food items, fuel and light, clothing and footwear, housing, services like health and education. The retail inflation is influenced by the change in prices of commodities other than food items in the basket as well.

(c) The wholesale inflation as measured by Wholesale Price Index was in the negative zone for 17 consecutive months since November, 2014 to March, 2016 and Retail inflation as measured by CPI was in the range of 3.63 % to 5.76 % from January, 2015 to May, 2016. However, rate of inflation may be affected by factors such as movement of international commodity prices, particularly of crude oil; the upturn in inflation expectations of households and of corporates; the stickiness in inflation excluding food and fuel; declining growth in agriculture due to two consecutive drought years; increased transportation costs; supply chain constraints; and artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing.

Wastage of foodgrains

*146. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of wastage of foodgrains permitted in the supply chain from the source *i.e.* godown to the public distribution outlets;

(b) whether the actual wastage is within the permissible limits; and

(c) if not, details of the excess wastage of foodgrains occurring during the years 2012-15, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) There is no provision of percentage of wastage of foodgrains due to damage in the supply chain under Central pool. Foodgrains conforming to prescribed norms are procured for Central pool and stored in scientific manner in covered and CAP (cover and plinth) storage. All precautionary measures are taken for safe storage of foodgrains to avoid damage. In spite of all precautions, some

quantity may get damaged/become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pests' attack, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. Foodgrains accrued as damaged with percentage against offtake quantity in FCI during 2012-13 to 2015-16 is at Statement-I (*See below*).

Besides damaged grains, some operational losses *i.e.* storage and transit losses may occur mainly due to loss of moisture, multiple handling, longer period of storage and long distance transportation of foodgrains. For proper monitoring of storage and transit losses, annual targets are fixed for FCI under MoU. Storage and transit losses reported during 2012-13 to 2015-16 *vis-a-vis* MoU targets in Food Corporation of India (FCI) are at Statement-II. (*See below*)

Statement-I

List of foodgrains accrued as damaged in FCI during 2012-2016

Year	Accrued Quantity of Damaged foodgrains (in lakh tons)	Off take quantity (excluding DCP States) (In lakh tons)	% Damaged foodgrain against off take quantity
2012-13	0.031	552.6	0.006
2013-14	0.247	523.16	0.047
2014-15	0.188	501.75	0.037
2015-16	0.03	490.15	0.006

Statement-II

Details of storage and transit losses from 2012-13 to 2015-16 against MoU targets in FCZ

Storage losses:

Year	MoU Targets as a % of total stock received and issued during the year	% of loss
1	2	3
2012-13*	0.22	0.22

1	2	3
2013-14*	0.22	0.17
2014-15*	0.21	-0.01
2015-16**	0.15	-0.06

Note: 1. (*) indicates Audited Figures (**) indicates Provisional Figures (Commodity includes Wheat, Rice and Paddy).

2. (-) Minus indicates Gain.

Transit losses:

Year	MOU Targets (%)	% of loss
2012-13*	0.43	0.47
2013-14*	0.43	0.46
2014-15*	0.45	0.43
2015-16**	0.42	0.38

Note: (*) indicates Audited Figures

(**) indicates Provisional Figures (Commodity includes Wheat, Rice and Paddy).

Capping the prices of drugs

*147. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently capped prices of some drugs used in treatment of various ailments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of impact thereof in terms of price reduction for each scheduled formulation; and

(c) the details of efforts made by Government to ensure that all essential drugs, including antibiotics, are made available to the general public at cheaper price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):

(a) and (b) The Government had fixed the ceiling price of 530 scheduled formulations in accordance with Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) (including medicines for cardiovascular disease/heart disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cancer and kidney disease) till 29.02.2016. The details of reduction in prices of these scheduled