

(b) to (d) Coverage for receiving subsidized foodgrains under NFSA is under two categories —households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority households. Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month and households covered under AAY are entitled to 35 kg per family per month. Issue prices applicable to both the categories are the same, *i.e.* ₹ 21- per kg for wheat and ₹ 3/- per kg for rice. Entitlement of AAY under NFSA has been protected at the same level as under erstwhile Targeted Public Distribution System, both in terms of quantity and prices.

#### **Rise in price of sugar**

1418. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether price of sugar has increased sharply in the months of June and July, 2016 in Delhi, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the price of M-31 sugar in wholesale markets of Delhi in the months of June and July, 2016;

(c) the steps taken to check rise in price of sugar; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to make sugar available at nominal rates to the residents of Delhi through Mother Dairy and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The retail price of sugar in Delhi has increased by about ₹ 2 per kg in the months of June-July 2016 and currently the prices are in the range of ₹ 40-41 per kg.

(b) Wholesale price of M-31 Sugar in Delhi market in the month of June and July (up to 22nd July 2016) were in the range of ₹ 3690 to 3890 per quintal.

(c) To keep a check on rise in price of sugar, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turnover limits on sugar for 6 months. Further, Government has imposed custom duty @20% on export of sugar to conserve stocks in the country and ensure its availability at reasonable prices.

(d) No, Sir.

#### **Overstocking of foodgrains by FCI**

1419. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the surplus grain stock maintained by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has consistently been more than the buffer stock norms, at

huge costs in the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken by Government to avoid such overstocking and related costs;

(c) the total quantity and proportion of extra grain targeted for sale in the open market and the current status of these efforts; and

(d) whether Government would distribute overstocked grains to needy households through PDS or other schemes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The stock maintained in Central Pool by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been normally more than the buffer stock norms.

(b) and (c) The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool is dependent upon production and procurement of foodgrains besides offtake which may fluctuate based on the crop production and market situation in a particular season.

To offload the surplus stock in the Central Pool over and above the stocking norms, Government of India (GOI) has been making special adhoc additional allocations to the States/UTs from time to time.

Further, FCI sells wheat and rice in the open market under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) (Domestic) through e-tender. For the year 2016-17, a target of 65-75 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) has been set for sale of wheat by FCI out of Central Pool under the OMSS (D). A target of 20 lakh MT of Grade 'A' rice has also been kept for sale under OMSS (D) during 2016-17. A quantity of 8.81 LMT of wheat and 0.26 LMT of rice have been sold under OMSS (D) as on 27.07.2016.

(d) GoI has already made an additional allocation of 12.99 LMT wheat and 6.66 LMT rice over and above the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA) allocations as drought relief during 2016-17. GOI has also made *ad hoc* additional allocations to States/UTs to meet out their additional requirement as well as to release surplus stock of foodgrains held in the Central Pool.

### **Reopening of the Super Bazar**

†1420. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Super Bazar at Connaught Place in New Delhi has been lying closed for many years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.