

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that at present its building is in a dilapidated condition and there are apprehensions that it might collapse any time;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to reopen the Super Bazar; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, whether it would handover this place to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The six-storey building of Super Bazar at Connaught Place was allotted by NDMC on license basis. All six floors of the building are lying vacant and are not in a good condition.

(c) and (d) The matter of the Super Bazar was *sub-judice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India since 2005. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* their order dated 29.03.2016 placed Super Bazar under liquidation. The Official Liquidator Super Bazar has been directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to take action in accordance with the provisions of Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 which has since begun.

Distribution of pulses at subsidized rate through PDS

1421. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are providing pulses at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and pulse-wise and the rate at which pulses are being distributed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that States are finding it difficult to procure pulses for this purpose because of fluctuations in their price; and

(d) if so, the steps that will be taken by the Ministry to assist States in procuring pulses for distribution through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Government allocates foodgrains (Rice, Wheat and Coarsegrains) to all States and Union Territories (UTs) for distribution through PDS. However, some States/UTs have reported a distribution of pulses through Public Distribution System (PDS), details of which are given in the Statement (*See* below). There is no plan of Government of India to provide pulses at subsidized rates through PDS.