

JICA Consultants have done a preliminary assessment for locating the High Speed Rail (HSR) terminal at Bandra reclamation area. According to the Consultant's assessment, the length of alignment will increase by 4.6 kms thereby increasing the cost of the project by approximately ₹ 6,000 crores. There are no plans at present to construct the HSR terminal in Mumbai as above the ground station.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:*

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Sir, Question No. 181 ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. This is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Sir, Question No. 181 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Sir, the answer is laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप लोग भी बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Why aren't slogans shouted on the streets? This is not a place for shouting slogans. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Procurement of paddy in Bihar

†*182. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by Government for procurement of paddy in Bihar this year;

(b) whether Government is aware that the State Government is unable to procure paddy from the farmers and it does not have means of its proper storage either; and

(c) whether Government proposes to offer special assistance and bonus to the farmers of Bihar on sale of paddy, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Bihar had opted for Decentralized Procurement (DCP) System with effect from Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2013-14. In a DCP System, the State procures, stores and distributes foodgrains acquired by it through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Since Bihar

* Not recorded.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is a deficit State, unable to procure sufficient stocks for its TPDS requirements, the balance is provided by Food Corporation of India (FCI). The procurement plan in term of centres to be opened including agencies to be engaged is decided by the State Government. For current KMS 2016-17, State Government of Bihar decided that only Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)/Vayapar Mandal (VM) (State Agencies) will procure paddy directly from farmers at Panchayat level as well as Block level under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. FCI was not allotted any area for procurement of paddy and the entire procurement is being undertaken by the State.

A target of 20.00 LMT rice has been assigned to Bihar Government for procurement of Rice. The Procurement period is from November, 2016 to March, 2017, and the period for milling and delivery is upto July, 2017. The no. of Purchase Centres proposed to be opened by State Government of Bihar is 7557. The State having smoothly procured and distributed around 16 lakh MT rice in 2014-15 under National Food Security Act (NFSA), has the capacity to handle 20 lakh MT rice targeted for this year. FCI together with State Government Agencies have a total of 15.56 lakh MT storage capacity in the State of Bihar.

(c) The GoI does not propose to offer any bonus or special assistance. So far, no bonus has been declared by State Government of Bihar for KMS 2016-17.

Countering the effects of demonetisation of currency notes on crop sowing

*183. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that demonetisation of currency notes has adversely affected the sowing of crops during the current sowing season in Maharashtra and other parts of the country as farmers are unable to purchase seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. due to lack of money, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the immediate remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The total area sown under five major crop categories till November 29, 2016 was 408.22 lakh hectares, 8.03 per cent higher than the 377.86 lakh hectares in the same period last year of which wheat had been sown on 168.06 lakh hectares compared to 149.86 lakh hectares in the same period last year. The area covered under pulses is 111.60 lakh hectares compared to 99.71 lakh hectares in the same period last year. The area covered under oilseeds is 70.67 lakh hectares compared to 62.26 lakh hectares in the same period last year. The area