

Consumer Melas

3437. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether dovetailing with popular Consumer Melas during festive seasons like Diwali, Government has plans to organise consumer grievance redressal camps attended by officials of public utility regulators, big companies and industry bodies;

(b) whether National Consumer Helpline participated in such Melas to educate consumers about their rights and the procedure for seeking grievance redressal; and

(c) whether such Melas will be organised in different parts/States of the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The intent behind Consumer Mela has been to bring together consumers, companies, industry bodies and regulators on a common platform for promoting consumer awareness and possible grievance redressal. The National Consumer Helpline participated in Consumer Mela which was organized in New Delhi on 20th October, 2016 as well as other Melas during the festive season. Visitors were apprised of their rights and responsibilities as consumers, procedure for redressal of their grievances and provided help in registration of grievances. Such Consumer Melas will be replicated in other parts of the country in due course of time.

Rise in prices of pulses

3438. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantities of pulses imported by Government in the last three years, year-wise, country-wise and variety-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in prices of pulses inspite of having buffer stocks in the country;

(c) the reasons for not allocating pulses from buffer stock to States that are in real need of pulses;

(d) the outcome of the high-level meeting held recently with the Finance Minister and others; and

(e) the follow-up action taken on the outcome of the aforesaid meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The requisite details are as below:—

Period	Variety	Quantity in tonnes	Country
2014-15	—	Nil	—
2015-16	Tur	5,000	Malawi/Mozambique
2016-17 [^]	Tur	158,500	Malawi/Mozambique, Myanmar
	Urad	42,500	Myanmar
	Chana	70,000	Australia
	Masur	135,000	Canada

[^]: For 2016-17, the quantity also includes import contracts.

(b) As per the 1st Advance Estimates of Production of Foodgrains for 2016-17 of DAC&FW, production of pulses during 2014-15 and 2015-16 was 17.15 million tonnes and 16.47 million tonnes respectively. This was significantly lower than the estimated demand of 22.68 million tonnes and 23.62 million tonnes (Twelfth F.Y.P. Working Group Report on Foodgrains, erstwhile Planning Commission), implying significant gaps in demand and supply. The imports of pulses during these years were not sufficient to meet deficit in domestic availability putting pressure on their prices. Government approved creation of 1.5 lakh tonnes of pulses in 2015-16, which was further enhanced to upto 20 lakh tonnes on 12th September, 2016 for effective market intervention.

There has been a fall in the prices of major pulses, as given in Statement-I (*See below*), except for Chana in 2016-17 on account of estimated higher production of Kharif pulses, decision to enhance the buffer stock of pulses to upto 20 lakh tonnes and releases from the buffer, monitoring of prices on regular basis, zero import duty on pulses, etc. The prevailing high prices of Chana prices is due to large deficit in supply both domestic as well as overseas.

(c) Pulses from the buffer stock are offered to the States/UTs based on demand received from them.

(d) and (e) The requisite details are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I*All-India Retail Price Trends of major pulses over the year*

Items	All India Daily Average Retail Price (in ₹/kg)					% Variation over			
	Price As on	1 Month Ago	3 Month Ago	6 Month Ago	1 Year Ago				
	14.12.16	14.11.16	14.9.16	14.12.16	14.12.15	1 Months	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Gram Dal	124.37	119.42	99.27	77.98	69.37	4.15	25.28	59.49	79.28
Tur Dal	113.78	121.62	119.58	139.8	149.68	-6.45	-4.85	-18.61	-23.98
Urad Dal	114.42	124.42	130.9	152.36	140.91	-8.04	-12.59	-24.9	-18.8
Moong Dal	82.85	87.23	87.06	98.39	107.69	-5.02	-4.84	-15.79	-23.07
Masoor Dal	80.57	83.64	83.89	83.64	88.11	-3.67	-3.96	-3.67	-8.56

Source: States/UTs Civil Supplies Deptts.

Statement-II*Details of decisions taken in FM's Meeting and Follow-up Actions thereon*

Sl. No.	Major decisions taken in FM's Meeting on pulses held on 11th July, 2016 or Outcome of the Meeting	Follow-up Actions
1	2	3
1	Buffer stock for pulses for which CoS has recommended 8 lakh tonnes has been further expanded to 20 lakh tonnes for procurement both in domestic and overseas markets.	CCEA in its meeting dated 12.09.2016 decided for enhancing the buffer stock of pulses upto 20 lakh tonnes. As on date, the designated agencies have procured domestically or contracted for imports around 7.18 lakh tonnes of pulses for the buffer.
2.	A new policy on pulses to be prepared to encourage production especially in irrigated areas.	Under NFSM, improved production technology of all pulses grown both in irrigated and rainfed conditions is promoted.
3.	A Committee under Chief Economic Adviser to be set up to propose policy on pulses with appropriate methodology for fixing minimum support price for pulses.	Government had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs. The Committee recommended inclusion of factors such as risk and externalities in determination of MSP as well for pulses and other commodities.
4.	States to be allocated pulses as per demand from the buffer stock. Chana distribution also to begin.	Allocation made to States from the buffer stock of pulses including Chana.
5.	Long term arrangement for pulses to be pursued vigorously with countries of African origin and Myanmar especially for Tur and Urad.	The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mozambique for import of pulses on Government-to-Government (G2G) basis and is open to similar arrangement with other African countries.
6.	States may be impressed upon to continue enforcement activities against hoarders.	Advisories issued to State Governments regularly to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing and

1	2	3
		effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
7.	Media plan should be undertaken to impress upon the public about the steps being taken by the Central Government on price of pulses.	Department of Consumer Affairs suitably publicizes the steps taken to control prices through multi-media including Print and Electronic Media.

Foodgrain procuring infrastructure

3439. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating improving the foodgrain procuring infrastructure to increase procurement from farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Punjab; and

(c) whether State level procurement agencies can help in arranging sufficient credit facilities for carrying out foodgrain purchase activities without depending on the Central Government, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Government of India (GoI) carries out procurement of foodgrains from farmers through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies. FCI has well developed and established infrastructure. Many of the State Governments like Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha also have well developed infrastructure. GoI is focusing on the States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam where infrastructure needs improvement.

GoI has taken many initiatives for improving the infrastructure to increase procurement from farmers. GoI introduced Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for creation of storage capacity with the help of private entrepreneurs for safe storage of procured foodgrains. 135.88 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) storage capacity has been completed under the PEG Scheme. State-wise details are given in Statement-I (*See below*). GoI has also approved construction of 100 LMT of Silos in a phased manner. In addition, CWC and other Government agencies along with private sectors are also involved in construction and management of Silos.