

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Procurement of foodgrains is undertaken by Food Corporation of India (FCI) under Department of Food and Public Distribution (DF&PD). The Specifications prescribed by the Government for moisture limit is upto 12% for wheat. Moisture in excess of 12% and upto 14% is discounted at full value. Stocks containing moisture in excess of 14% are rejected. In case of procurement of Paddy, the maximum permissible limit of moisture as per uniform specifications for Kharif Marketing Season 2016-17 is 17%.

Moisture content of foodgrain stocks in mandies is determined by moisture meters as per standardized method by the procuring staff deputed by FCI and State Government and its procuring agencies.

To ensure that the farmers are given their due for their produce, uniform specifications for paddy and wheat is fixed by Government before the commencement of each procurement season, advising farmers to bring their produce conforming to the specification. Regular monitoring is done by supervisory staff of procuring agencies during procurement to ensure smooth procurement of Central pool foodgrains.

MSP of pulses

357. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has already commenced procurement of pulses from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposals for enhancing MSP of pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to hike the MSP of any of the pulses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) alongwith National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and Small Farmers' Agriculture-Business Consortium (SFAC) has already commenced procurement of pulses in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) of 2016-17. Procurement undertaken for KMS of 2016-17 (as on 14th November, 2016) is given below:

Pulses	Procurement (Metric Tonne)
Moong	61349.70
Urad	31282.68

(b) and (c) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended increase in MSPs of both kharif and rabi pulses for 2016-17 season. In addition, Government has announced a bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal for Arhar, Moong and Urad, ₹ 200 per quintal for Gram and ₹ 150 per quintal for Masur. MSPs of pulses for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given below:

(₹ Per quintal)		
Pulses	2015-16	2016-17
Arhar	4625 [^]	5050 ^{^^}
Moong	4850 [^]	5225 ^{^^}
Urad	4625 [^]	5000 ^{^^}
Gram	3500 [*]	4000 [^]
Masur	3400 [*]	3950 ^{**}

[^] Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^{^^} Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

^{*} Including Bonus of ₹ 75 per quintal.

^{**} Including bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal.

Controlling prices of patented drugs

358. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been asked to examine a proposal to control prices of patented drugs;

(b) if so, the current status of this examination and when is the report expected;

(c) the legal regime which exists in the country to control prices of patented life saving drugs for diseases like cancer, etc.;

(d) whether NITI Aayog has recommended that NPPA should not control prices of all essential drugs as that hampers investment in pharmaceutical sector; and

(e) if so, how does the Ministry respond to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013 does not distinguish between patented and generic/branded medicines. However, para 32(i) of this order exempts patented products from price control for a period of five years, if the product has a patent in