

Mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution

1194. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been serious complaints about mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution up to the tune of 50 per cent by employees of warehousing corporation and food supply department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such complaints regarding mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution have been received either by Food Corporation of India (FCI) or Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

Gap between wholesale and retail prices of vegetables

1195. SHRI K. G. KENYE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite good production of vegetables during April-July, their availability was not upto the mark and hence resulted in high prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tomato, onion, cabbage etc. were got wasted during the last three months; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to ease the gap between retail and wholesale prices of vegetables and to make sufficient market availability thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The prices of onions were lower during April to July, 2016 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year due to higher production in 2015-16. The prices of potatoes, on the other hand, were higher during April to July, 2016 as compared to previous year due to lower production of potatoes in 2015-16. Tomato prices were lower in the month of April, 2016 but rose thereafter due to losses during handling, transit etc.

The details of prices of potatoes, onions and tomatoes during the months of April, 2016 to July, 2016 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Short shelf life of vegetables namely, tomatoes makes them vulnerable to losses due to transit, handling etc. Government, however, has taken following

steps to ease the gap between retail and wholesale prices of vegetables and to make sufficient market availability:—

- (1) Implementing the National Agriculture Market (NAM) which deploys a common e-market platform to link the existing physical mandis across the country online. In addition, Government is also facilitating direct marketing and farmer consumer markets.
- (2) To boost the production of vegetables and fruits in the country, the Government is implementing mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Assistance for increasing horticulture production is also being provided under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme.
- (3) Assistance is provided for development of infrastructure for post-harvest management and marketing such as storages, wholesale markets, rural primary market, Kissan Mandis etc.
- (4) Implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including fruits and vegetables.
- (5) Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being used for procurement and subsequent release of agricultural commodities to control the volatility in their prices.

Statement

Details of prices of potatoes, onions and tomatoes during April, 2016 to July, 2016

(A) All India average monthly price of potatoes (₹/kg)

Month	2015	2016
April	14.25	16.55
May	13.79	19.01
June	15.06	21.24
July	15.78	22.63

(B) All India average monthly price of onions (₹/kg)

April	22.01	16.4
May	22.07	15.68
June	24.85	15.77
July	28.61	16.64

(C) All India average monthly price of tomatoes (₹/kg)

Month	2015	2016
April	20.36	18.84
May	25.62	26.73
June	25.63	40.17
July	28.89	40.67

Procurement of pulses for buffer stock

1196. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that NAFED and other agencies have started procuring 10 lakh tonnes of pulses for buffer stock, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the available existing buffer stock of various pulses in the country; and
- (c) the quantity of pulses proposed to be procured from farmers and proposed to be imported for the buffer stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved domestic procurement of 10 lakh tonnes of pulses consisting of 5 lakh tonnes of pulses from Kharif Marketing Season 2016-17 and 5 lakh tonnes from Rabi Marketing Season 2017-18 for building the buffer.

(b) As on 21.11.2016, a buffer of 638,205.55 MT of pulses, viz. 130,492.33 MT of Chana; 204,030.859 MT of Tur; 143,555.76 MT of Masur; 83,181.792 MT of Urad; and 76,943.81 MT of Moong, have been built through domestic procurement and import contracts.

(c) Of the 20 lakh tonnes of buffer stock of pulses approved by the Government, the tentative target is 10 lakh tonne through domestic procurement from farmers and another 10 lakh tonnes from imports.

Claims under LSPEF to RSFCSC Ltd.

†1197. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government is yet to settle the Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims of the Rajasthan State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.