

[20 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether Government propose to bring urea under the category of uncontrolled fertilizers; and

(d) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to review the rates of secondary freight for urea manufacturing units.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present for the price decontrol of urea.

Recommendations of Committee on foodgrain export

1817. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the high level Committee on foodgrain export headed by the Chairman, FCI, emphasizes to venture into direct grain exports;

(b) if so, the full details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise,

Wheat and rice stock

1818. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present stock position of wheat and rice as on 1st July, 2004;

(b) the likely stock position as on 1st January, 2005; and

(c) whether the depleted stock position is sufficient for the country to withstand the present drought like situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 1st July, 2004 the stock position of wheat was 191.52 lakh MTs and that of rice was 107.63 lakh MTs.

(b) The likely stock position of wheat and rice as on 1st January, 2005 will be 104 lakh MTs and 126 lakh MTs respectively.

(c) The stock position of wheat and rice as on 1.7.2004 was 299.15 lakh MTs which is above the prescribed Buffer Norms. (Wheat 143 lakh MTs and Rice 100 lakh MTs). This will withstand the present drought situation.

Production of sugar

1819. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar production in the country would be drastically affected this year because of poor monsoon;

(b) if so, the total production of sugar during the last two years and to what extent it is likely to be less during 2004-05;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage; and

(d) whether Government propose to import sugar to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The estimated production of sugar in the sugar season 2003-2004 is 138 lakh MTs as against 201.32 lakh tonnes in the season 2002-2003. This reduction is on account of drought and