

Rates (Effective Price) of Foodgrains exported

Effective Export Price in Rs. per MT of Wheat, Par-Boiled Rice and Raw Rice pertaining to Fresh Crop Prevailing during the last quarter of Financial years 2002-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Financial year	Wheat	Par-Boiled Rice	Raw Rice
2000-2001	4150	6750	6750
2001-2002	4250	6000	5650
2002-2003	4950	6865	6510
2003-2004	6525	7800	7600

Issue price for BPL beneficiaries

BPL prices in Rs. per MT of Wheat and Rice during Financial years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Financial Year	Wheat	Rice
2000-2001	4150	5650
2001-2002	4150	5650
2002-2003	4150	5650
2003-2004	4150	5650

International consultancy services for FCI

1073. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a consultancy firm of international level to look into the working of Food Corporation of India and suggest measures for its improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount to be paid to this international company for their work; and

(d) by when, the company is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government is considering a proposal to conduct a study on the working of the Food Corporation of India, *inter-alia*, to bring about major improvements in its functioning to control inefficiencies that increase the food subsidy burden. The detailed modalities for the proposed study are being worked out.

Working Groups on Consumer Welfare

1074. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY;
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

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

(a) whether Government have set up six working groups to look into different areas of consumer welfare;

(b) whether this has been considered by Government after the recommendations of the Central Consumer Protection Council;

(c) if so, the terms of reference of these group;

(d) by when these groups will submit their recommendations to Government; and

(e) to what extent these would help in protecting consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) In the 23rd meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council (CCPC) held on 16th July, 2003 at New Delhi, it had been decided to set up Working Groups to study consumer related issues in details and to make suggestions/recommendations to better protect the interest of consumers. The following are the six Working Groups that have been set up:

(i) Working Group on Food Safety.

(ii) Working Group on Drugs, Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices & Equipments.