

[23 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered on this account last year and the steps taken till date to avoid/minimize such loss during the current years;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation constructed any more godowns for storage of foodgrains particularly in Punjab and Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During peak procurement period, foodgrains may have to be kept in tent/canopy cover and Plinth (CAP) storage, wherever covered space is not readily available.

(b) During the year 2003-04, out of 25.17 lakh MT of stocks stored in Cover and Plinth (CAP), approximately 0.13 lakh MT (*i.e.* 0.5%) got damaged.

The stocks stored under Cover and Plinth (CAP) are frequently inspected and liquidated on priority, to minimize losses.

(c) and (d) From the year 2002-03 onwards, FCI has constructed covered storage capacity of 2.41 lakh MTs, including 0.28 lakh MT in Punjab and 0.08 lakh MT in Maharashtra. Similarly, Central Warehousing Corporation created 6.73 lakh MTs of storage space from 2002-03 onwards, including 0.17 lakh MT in Punjab. However, no storage godowns were constructed in Maharashtra during this period.

Rice at BPL rate to Andhra Pradesh

1079. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken and proposed to be taken in response to Andhra Pradesh Government's recent request to allot a quantity of 6 lakh tonnes of rice at BPL rate for supply to BPL families in the drought affected areas @ 20 kgs. per month per family over and above the PDS entitlement who do not have purchasing capacity, and looking for employment opportunities; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not having taken a decision, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the recent past. However, during the current drought year from August, 2003 to July, 2004 a quantity of 7.82 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojna (Special Component) for drought affected areas.

Diverting the forest land for construction of transmission line

1080. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to divert 27.72 Hec. of forest land for construction of 220 KV DC transmission line from Hubli to Narendra in Dharwad District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Central Government has already granted final approval to the proposal for diversion of 27.72 hectare of forest land for construction of 220 KV DC transmission line from Hubli to Narendra in Dharwad District of Karnataka, on 14th June 2004 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Management of game sanctuaries under State Governments

1081. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government will initiate steps to take a more direct and effective interest in the management of game sanctuaries under the control of State Government;