

- (ii) Each wagon is properly cleaned for removal of any accumulated dust like cement, fertilizer or coal which may damage foodgrains.
- (iii) LDPE sheets are laid on wagon floor before loading of foodgrain bags.
- (iv) Wagons doors are double sealed by Railway and FCI to avoid any outside impact on the foodgrain bags.
- (v) Tarpaulins sheet spread on platform at the time of loading/unloading of stocks from the wagons to avoid contamination of spillages. Efforts are being continuously made to reduce the transit damage.
- (vi) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (vii) The dispatching Regions have been instructed to use polythene sheet in the spoiled railway wagons to retrieve the spilled-over grains.
- (viii) Identification of vulnerable points both at dispatching and recipient centers for intensive checking is being done on continuous basis by the GM Regions and ED Zones. Special squad checking at selected rail heads and destination/dispatch centers is undertaken periodically at the identified centers.

Establishing working standard laboratories in Kerala

1354. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Decentralized Paddy Procurement Scheme is withdrawn by Central Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from Kerala Government to re-fix the out-turn ratio from 68 per cent to 64 per cent, if so, details and action taken thereon;

(c) whether any proposal from Government of Kerala has been received to establish working standard laboratories in Kollam and Kottayam; and

(d) if so, the details of fund allocated for the above proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir.

(b) A request has been received from Kerala Government to re-fix the out-turn

ratio from 68 per cent to 64 per cent by citing Technical Committee report of Kerala Government.

A study on trial milling of paddy for fixation of Out-turn Ratio (OTR) has been entrusted to Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT), Thanjavur by Food Corporation of India (FCI). It has carried out the study in 11 States including Kerala. The final report of the study is awaited.

(c) No proposal has been received from Government of Kerala to establish working standard laboratories in Kollam and Kottayam in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation of rice and wheat to Kerala

1355. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice and wheat released and distributed to the State of Kerala through Public Distribution System under BPL/APL/AAY categories during each of the last three years;

(b) whether in view of recent floods in Kerala, extra quantity of rice has been released; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government of Kerala implemented National Food Security Act, 2013 with effect from 1-Nov. 2016. Consequent upon implementation of NFSA, an annual allocation of 14,25,048 MT of foodgrain which comprises of 265059 MT of wheat and 1159989 MT of rice is made to the State Government. Prior to the implementation of NFSA, allocation of foodgrain to Kerala was made in terms of the provisions of Targeted Public Distribution System. The details of allocation and offtake of foodgrain in respect of Kerala during last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) In pursuance of a proposal received from the State Government of Kerala, due to floods in August, 2018, the Government of India made an additional allocation of 89540 MT of rice to Kerala at MSP derived rates.