

average quality (FAQ) wheat from farmers at Minimum Support Price as per procurement policy of wheat;

(b) if so, the rule under which maximum limit for wheat procurement has been decided for Rabi marketing season 2019-20 in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the said policy is contrary to the interest of farmers;

(d) whether action is being taken to remove the condition of maximum procurement limit in order to provide maximum benefits to the farmers; and

(e) by when this system is likely to be changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (e) Under the procurement policy of Government of India (GOI), Minimum Support Price (MSP), period of procurement and quality specifications are declared before start of each marketing season (Kharif/ Rabi). Further, procurement policy of Government of India is open ended, under which whatever paddy/wheat is offered by farmers within the stipulated period and conforming to the specifications prescribed in advance by GOI are purchased at MSP by the Government Agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool to avoid any distress sale by farmers. However, producers/ farmers are free to sell their produce in open market.

Before the start of every Marketing/procuring Season, GOI convenes meeting of Food Secretaries of procuring States & FCI officers to formulate state-wise procurement plan which includes procurement estimates, number of purchase centres and the time period for procurement. Accordingly, the estimated quantity for procurement and period of procurement is fixed for that marketing season in consultation with the State Governments.

However, the actual procurement may be revised or the period of procurement may be changed on the recommendation of the concerned State Government.

### **Unrestricted surge in food prices**

2951. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that as per Bloomberg survey, retail inflation was at 4.35 per cent in October, 2019 while food inflation rose to a high of 7.89 per cent in October, 2019 against 5.11 per cent a month ago;

- (b) whether any official assessment has been conducted regarding the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by the Ministry to address the unrestricted surge in food prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) As per the Consumer Price Index released on 13th November, 2019 by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) based inflation rate for the month of October, 2019 is 7.89% (Provisional) which was 5.11% in September 2019.

Prices of 22 essential food commodities are monitored daily by the Department of Consumer Affairs through Price Monitoring Centers spread across India and appropriate interventions are undertaken by the Government from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items. Such interventions, *inter-alia*, include appropriately utilising trade and fiscal policy instruments like import duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders and black marketers etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices. Also, Government incentivize farmers by announcing Minimum Support Prices for increasing production and is implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc. for increasing production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato. Government banned export of onions and imposed stock limits on traders under Essential Commodities Act on 29.09.19. Government also approved import/procurement of onions for augmenting availability and moderating prices.

#### **Procurement of paddy**

2952. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated steps for paddy procurement in the country, including Telangana by ensuring and fixing MSP thereof;