

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is because the mills have started earlier this season even though the whole year's sugar production will be less than last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) During the sugar season 2018-19, 416 sugar mills of the country produced about 10.7 million tonnes of-sugar till January 15, 2019, as against 11.8 million tonnes by 496 mills in the corresponding period of 2017-18 sugar season.

(c) and (d) During current sugar season 2019-20, sugar mills in some of the States, particularly Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have started sugar production earlier than last year but the sugar production in the country is estimated to be about 273 lakh MT, as against about 332 lakh MT produced last year.

Government's godowns in Gujarat

†1357. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Gujarat where there are Government godowns for storing foodgrains and vegetables;

(b) the policy of Central Government regarding establishing godowns in rural areas for storing foodgrains and vegetables;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are still no Government godowns in some districts of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) All 33 revenue districts of Gujarat have Government owned/hired godowns.

Based on the requirement of storage capacity for central pool stock of foodgrains (wheat, paddy/rice), storage capacities are created/hired under various schemes of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government like Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme/construction of steel silos and Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS).

In addition, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India implements a Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of horticulture in the country, which includes assistance for development of Post Harvest Management (PHM). PHM component includes establishment of cold storages, cold rooms etc. As on 31.03.2019, a total number of 956 cold storages with capacity of 37.90 lakh MT for storing perishable horticulture produce has been sanctioned in Gujarat.

Demand and supply of vegetables and fruits

1358. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that the food mile, that is the distance covered from field to stomach, is large and expanding day-by-day, thereby increasing the prices of vegetables and fruits;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken or to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any regulatory/monitoring agency to monitor and regulate the demand and supply of vegetables and fruits to keep their prices under control, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which such monitoring agency is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) Price rise and fall of vegetables and fruits are influenced by their demand and supply which further depend on various factors like cost of inputs (fertilizers, rural wages), perishability and storability of the produce, transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses, grading/sorting, wholesaler's margin, losses during movement, cost and margin of retailers, supply chain constraints like lack of storage and cold chain facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing and adverse weather conditions etc.