

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	2	6	2	—
24.	Uttarakhand	—	1	1	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	17	46	33	27
26.	West Bengal	4	4	2	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	2	—
28.	Pondicherry	1	—	—	—
TOTAL :		94	169	174	66

Main issues raised through press reports relates to alleged leakage/diversion of foodgrains and that of other complaints from individuals/organizations relates to non-issue of ration cards, alleged non-distribution/diversion of foodgrains, irregular functioning of FPSs etc.

Ban on speculative trading

2823. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent rise in food prices is because of speculative trading;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to put a ban on such trading; and
- (d) if so, by when such trading would be banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) In view of the reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) In view of the reply to part (c) above, question does not arise.

Increasing procurement targets

2824. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to increase procurement of grains from 10 million tonnes to 70 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether present storage capacity is adequate, considering the increase in procurement; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to increase the storage capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The procurement of foodgrains is open-ended and no targets are fixed for procurement. As per existing policy of Government of India, all quantities of wheat, rice and coarse grains conforming to the FAQ specifications brought by the farmers are purchased by FCI and State agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India has a total of 333.63 lakh MTs of storage capacity including Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) both owned and hired with a capacity utilization of 90% as on 15.7.2011. The State agencies also store foodgrains. Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP), the Government formulated a Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State-wise capacity requirement and locations were identified. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would now give a guarantee of ten years for assured hiring to the private entrepreneurs. A capacity of 152.97 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this sanctioned capacity tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs.

Supply of sugarcane to sugar mills

†2825. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any idea or proposal has been received to remove mandatory condition of supplying sugarcane to sugar mills;

(b) whether steps have been taken to give freedom to mill owners and sugarcane farmers to fix the prices of sugarcane apart from fixing support price; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.