

We have been bringing this problem in the notice of the Government of India from time to time but it has remained unresolved. People living below poverty line are not getting foodgrains of their requirement. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, when Bihar will get its required monthly quota of foodgrains?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we supply wheat and rice to all the State Governments, including Bihar, according to their demand. The Government of Bihar do not lift the stock it asks for from us...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : He is misleading the House, it is not so. The Central Government does not head the request of Bihar Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES : Sir, one per cent loss is allowed for storage and transit. Usually, the actual loss is not calculated. As a result, the FCI loses. May I know from the Minister whether in future the actual loss, subject to a maximum of one per cent loss, will be calculated for storage and transit?

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, I could not understand the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I could not get it too.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I would like to inform the hon. Member from Bihar, who seems to be unhappy, that this is not the problem of Bihar alone. This problem exists in other states also. I did not say about Bihar only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please repeat the question.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Sir, my question is very simple. One per cent loss is usually allowed for storage and transit. But the actual loss is never taken into consideration. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether in future the loss would be limited to a maximum of one per cent and only the actual loss calculated will be written off, so that FCI may stand to gain.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very good question.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There was 1.49 per cent loss in storage and transit during 1991-92 and 1.48 per cent in 1992-93.

MR. SPEAKER : He was saying that 8 per cent loss is allowed. If the loss is less, will it be taken into consideration so that FCI may stand to gain?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : At present it is 0.95 per cent. It was a bit higher last year. We will see how much it can be reduced.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Soil Erosion

*484. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated percentage of annual loss of agricultural produce in the country during the last three years due to soil erosion and the States which are the worst affected;

(b) the measures taken by the Government so far to save the loss of crop due to soil erosion particularly in the rainfed areas and the extent to which these measures have been able to save the agricultural produce; and

(c) the deficiencies in the existing method of soil conservation and the alternative methods proposed to be adopted by the Government for enhancing the yields in the rainfed areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No estimates are available about the loss of agricultural produce due to soil erosion. States which are most affected due to soil erosion are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) Government is implementing following important schemes including those specifically for rainfed areas, which, among other things, help in checking soil erosion and improving soil and crop productivity :

- (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.
- (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
- (iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in the Shifting Cultivation areas of North-Eastern India.
- (v) Drought Prone Areas Programme.
- (vi) Desert Development Programme.
- (vii) Integrated Wastelands Development programme.

However, no relationship has been worked out in quantitative terms between measures taken to conserve the soil and increase in the crop productivity.

(c) Based on the experience of implementing various soil conservation schemes in the past, Government of India have made modifications in the guidelines for implementing soil conservation schemes during 8th Five Year Plan which are as follows :

- (i) Adoption of a projectised approach for the treatment of selected watersheds for all types

of lands i.e. Agriculture, forest and wastelands based on their needs.

- (ii) Stress on the use of vegetative barriers, appropriate tillage practices for in situ conservation of rain water and also water harvesting for re-cycling.
- (iii) Involvement of people/beneficiaries at all levels of the projects i.e. planning, implementation and post management.

[Translation]

Pending Cases in Consumer Courts

*485. DR. SAKSHIJI :
SHRI M.G. REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of cases pending in National Commission and various Consumer Courts in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) the total cases settled by the Commission/Courts during the last two years, State-wise;
- (c) the average time being taken by the Commission/Courts to settle a case;

(d) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure adopted by these Commission/Courts to reduce the disposal time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution compiles such information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available with the Ministry, a statement has been prepared and is annexed. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder provide for deciding a case within 3 months which does not require any Laboratory testing or analysis and within 5 months if it requires testing or analysis. The attached Statement also indicates the cases decided by the State Commission/District Fora within 90/150 days.

(d) and (e). The Consumer Protection Act provides for setting up additional District Fora in a district depending upon the work load. However, the responsibility of setting up of such additional District Forum lies solely with the State Governments. The procedure under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder is already very simple. The complaint can be written on plain paper and sent to the redressal forum even by post. No fee is charged for registering the complaint.