

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

[English]

Quality of rice and wheat available at Fair Price Shops

*124. SHRI MANORANJAN SUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the bad quality of rice and wheat being issued through the Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution outlets all over the country, including Union Territories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Food Corporation of India issues rice and wheat of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) within the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards to State Governments and UT Administrations. Procurement of rice and wheat is made at various producing areas in the country. Thus, slight variation within the specified standards in the quality of the foodgrains released simultaneously from different godowns could not be altogether ruled out.

The distribution of rice and wheat to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) is administered by the State Governments and UT Administrations. The Central Government has requested the State Governments, UT Administrations to tighten supervision and inspection arrangements to ensure that proper quality of wheat and rice reaches the consumers. Government have not lately received any major complaint regarding bad quality of rice or wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

Production of Edible Oils

*128. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible-oils produced in the country during 1990-91;

(b) the requirement thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The net edible oil supply in the country from all domestic sources during the year 1990-91 is estimated at 54.0 lakh MTs.

(b) The requirement of edible oils is placed at 60.3 lakh MTs.

(c) (1) Two centrally sponsored schemes, namely, National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP) which were operating till 1989-90 have been merged during 1990-91 into a single scheme namely Oilseeds Production Programmes (OPP). This scheme essentially provides essential assistance to the States for Production and distribution of quality seeds, measures like supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments and organising demonstration of advanced technology.

(2) The oilseeds projects of the NDDB.

(3) Setting up of a Technology Mission on Oilseeds established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technologies.

(4) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds.

(5) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds.

(6) Increasing the area under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soybean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran, etc.

(7) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(8) Fiscal incentives in the form of excise rebate for use of certain non-conventional oils in the vanaspati so as to encourage increased exploitation of these sources of oils.

[English]

Development of Refining Catalyst

*129 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has developed a refining catalyst;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when this is likely to be put into use; and

(d) whether it is proposed to manufacture this for export or local use or whether the Technology will be sold to earn foreign exchange as in the case of Suri-Diesel Transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun in collaboration with Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Vadodara has developed a bi-metallic reforming catalyst. The catalyst was thoroughly tested both by Indian Institute of Petroleum and Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited in their pilot plants and its performance was found to be at par with that of the imported catalyst.

(c) The know-how for the manufacture of the catalyst has been licensed to Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited who have commenced commercial production at their Bombay unit. The catalyst is undergoing commercial scale trials at the reformer units of (a) Madras Refineries since June, 1990 for production of gasoline and (b) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited at Vadodara since January, 1991 for production of aromatics.

(d) At present the reforming catalyst is being imported by the petro-refining industry; it is thus proposed to produce the catalyst for use by all the existing as well as new reforming units to be set up in the country as a measure of import substitution. In addition efforts would be to export the catalyst. Later the possibility of exporting the know-how as well, could also be explored.

Losses incurred by the Cement Corporation of India

*130. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

DR. A. K. PATEL.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit/loss incurred by the Cement Corporation of India (unit-wise) during 1990-91 and in the previous two years, separately;

(b) if losses were incurred, the reasons therefor;

(c) the accumulated losses of the Corporation so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Corporation to make its units economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) A Statement showing unit-wise net profit/(loss), cash profit/(loss), operating profit/(loss) during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is enclosed.