

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.