

*Quantity in lakh MT/
Value in Rs. Crores.*

Total storage & transit losses

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>%age of loss on Purchase+ Sale in terms of quantity</i>
2.96	87.94	0.85

(b) The steps taken by FCI to reduce the storage and transit losses are:

- (i) Strict enforcement of quality specifications relating to moisture during procurement of foodgrains;
- (ii) Reduction in the quantum of foodgrains filled in each bag;
- (iii) Installation of weigh-bridges in depots having capacity of 5000 tonnes or more;
- (iv) Minimising the use of open wagons;
- (v) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stocks verifications etc;
- (vi) Augmentation of covered storage capacity;
- (vii) Introduction of machine stitching of bags.

[*Translation*]

Evacuation of Employees of Department of Health from Iraq

701. SHRISURYANARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of Department of Health are still stranded in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government for their evacuation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Vegetable Oil Mills in Punjab

702. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up vegetable oil mills or issue letter of intent/industrial licence for setting up vegetable oil mills in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of oil mills are being proposed to be set up in the cooperative sector; and

(d) if so, the places identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL

SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). There is no proposal from the Government to set up vegetable oil units in Punjab. As a matter of policy, applications received from any entrepreneur/organisation irrespective of the sectoral status, are examined on merits of grant of letters of intent/ industrial licences having regard to parameters like availability of raw-materials, need for removing regional imbalances, locational policy etc.

(c) No such proposal has recently been received from the cooperative sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment of Teachers and Non-Teaching Staff on Ad Hoc Basis in Kendriya Vidyalayas

703. SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan appoints teaching and non-teaching staff on ad hoc basis and discharges them before they have put in 180 days' service;

(b) whether staff so discharged is re-employed after a break of one or more days without following the prescribed procedure or a new set of staff is recruited for another period lasting less than 180 days; and

(c) if so, the reasons for following this procedure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) to (c). As per the provisions of the Education Code for Kendriya Vidyalayas, ad-hoc appointments are made against vacant posts for a period not exceeding six months or till the regular in-

cumbent joins whichever is earlier. However, there is no bar to such candidates being selected again for appointment in Kendriya Vidyalayas on ad-hoc basis.

[*Translation*]

Disparity In Distribution of Food Items in Rural and Urban Areas

704. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is disparity between the quantity of items supplied through public distribution system in the rural and urban areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). The commodities to be supplied through Public Distribution System are allocated by the Central Government to the State Governments, U. T. Administrations. Internal distribution of these commodities within the States/IUTs, including the scale of ration, is decided by the State Government/ UT. Administration concerned taking into account various factors such as total availability, inter-se requirements of rural and urban areas in the districts etc.

[*English*]

Blindness in Children

705. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: