

Off-take of Foodgrains under PDS

877. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-take of foodgrains under the Public Distribution Scheme has dropped considerably in recent months;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the prices offered in the PDS are equal to those prevailing in the open market;

(d) whether the Government are considering to reduce the prices of rice and wheat supplied through PDS;

(e) if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(f) the total demand of rice and wheat under PDS of the various State, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The off-take of foodgrains (Wheat & Rice) in respect of Public Distribution System in the States/UTs. from April to October 1994-95 was 69.93 Lakh Metric Tonnes as against 79.89 Lakh Metric Tonnes during the corresponding period of last year (1993-94).

(b) and (c) The main reason for less offtake has been due to better local availability of foodgrains on account of high production of Coarsegrains, Wheat and Rice in two consecutive crop years 1992-93 and 1993-94 (July-June).

The Central Issue Prices for the foodgrains for Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System are below the open market prices however, due to increase in Central Issue Prices consequent on the increase in procurement prices of foodgrains over the years, the differences between the Central Issue Prices and open market prices of wheat and rice have narrowed down at present.

(d) and (e) The revision of Central Issue Prices of wheat which was due with effect from 1.4.1994 has not been effected and the Central Issue Prices of rice-Common, Fine and Superfine which was to be increased by Rs. 60/- per quintal with effect from 1.10.1994 has been kept in abeyance.

(f) A statement showing the total demand of rice and wheat State-wise for 1994-95 (provisional) is attached.

Statement

THE DEMAND FOR RICE AND WHEAT UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE YEAR 1994-95(P)

(in lakh tonnes)

State/UT	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3
1. ANDHRA PRADESH	21.90	1.80
2. ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0.87	0.24
3. ASSAM	4.71	3.94
4. BIHAR	3.72	7.14
5. GOA	0.87	0.48

	2	3	4
6. GUJARAT		4.14	6.42
7. HARYANA		0.36	1.55
8. HIMACHAL PRADESH		1.44	1.80
9. JAMMU & KASHMIR		5.20	3.50
10. KARNATAKA		11.72	6.00
11. KERALA		22.94	6.75
12. MADHYA PRADESH		5.60	5.88
13. MAHARASHTRA		8.58	12.00
14. MANIPUR		1.20	0.32
15. MEGHALAYA		2.40	0.44
16. MIZORAM		1.22	0.25
17. NAGALAND		0.95	0.66
18. ORISSA		5.44	4.75
19. PUNJAB		0.17	2.10
20. RAJASTHAN		0.46	14.44
21. SIKKIM		0.56	0.10
22. TAMIL NADU		12.00	3.60
23. TRIPURA		1.94	0.36
24. UTTAR PRADESH		5.50	11.86
25. WEST BENGAL		9.32	10.15
26. ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS		0.31	0.08
27. CHANDIGARH		0.04	0.25
28. DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI		0.06	0.02
29. DAMAN & DIU		0.06	0.03
30. DELHI		2.40	9.16
31. LAKSHADWEEP		0.06	0.01
32. PONDICHERRY		0.24	0.09
		136.19	116.17

(p) — Provisional

Public Utilities Regulatory Commission

878. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not setting up of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission;

(b) the details of proposed set up of the PURC and its status;

(c) the public utility services that are likely to be brought within the purview of it; and

(d) the time by which the Government are able to set up this body?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration and no time frame can be given at this stage.

Capital Investment in Sugar Production

879. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar produced during the last three years respectively with percentage as compared to the previous three years;

(b) whether during the aforesaid period, there was a sharp increase in the capital investment in the sugar industry;

(c) if so, the total amount of capital invested in sugar industry during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 separately;

(d) whether there was steep increase in prices of sugar during the aforesaid period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Sugar produced during the last three years and percentage increase/decrease over previous year are given below:—

Sugar Year	Sugar Produced (Lakh Tonnes)	Increase(+)/decrease(-) as % age of previous year
1991-92	134.11	11%(+)
1992-93	106.09	21%(-)
1993-94	98.12 (Prov.)	7.5%(-)

(b) and (c) As the sugar mills belong to various sectors, the details of the total capital investment in the sugar industry on the basis of the present written down value of their assets are not available in the Ministry of Food.

(d) and (e):— During sugar year 1991-92 open market retail sugar prices varied between Rs. 7.90/kg to Rs. 11.25/kg while it ranged between Rs. 9.00/kg to Rs. 12.75/kg during 1992-93. For the sugar year 1993-94 open market retail sugar prices varied between Rs. 10.70/kg to Rs. 17.30/kg.

Self-Sufficiency in Soyabean Seeds

880. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has achieved self-sufficiency in soyabean seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to import soyabean seeds ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid the import of soyabean seeds in order to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND

MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) and (b) In the year 1993-94 production of Soyabean was 46.3 lakh tonnes (likely) against the target of 31.0 lakh tonnes. While in 1994-95, the preliminary estimates indicate that production may be 37.2 lakh tonnes against the target of 40.0 lakh tonnes, indicating marginal shortfall of 2.8 lakh tonnes this year.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to import Soyabean at present.

(e) Centrally Sponsored Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation to increase the production of oilseeds including Soyabean in all the soyabean producing states. Under O.P.P. assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of gypsum and pyrites, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, Rhizobial cultures, organisation of frontline and general demonstrations of farmers fields.

Railway Lines in Madhya Pradesh

881. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway projects to be launched in Madhya Pradesh during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects which have been taken up for construction in Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan, together with the expenditure incurred on these projects upto September, 1994 are given below. The amount likely to be spent on these projects in the remaining years of the Eighth Five Year Plan would depend on the allocations to be made by the Planning Commission in the Annual Plans for these planheads, which have not yet been finalised.

NEW LINES	Expenditure upto September, 1994 (Rs. in Crores)
i. Guna-Etawah rail line via Shivpuri-Gwalior-Bhind	107.79
ii. Satna-Rewa (since completed)	42.19
GAUGE CONVERSION	
i. Neemuch-Rattlam	2.00
DOUBLINGS	
i. Narmada Bridge at Hoshangabad for Double line between Bhopal & Itarsi (since completed)	12.90
ii. Chambal Bridge (Hetampur-Gher doubling)	15.38
iii. Kiratgarh-Kala Akhar (since completed)	91.00
iv. Bilaspur-Akaltara - Third line	14.36
v. Annas Bridge-Panchpipla tunnel and Mahi Bridge (Panchpipla-Mahi Bridge-since completed)	11.86
vi. Pirumrod-Bercha and Bolai-Akodia (Bolai-Akodia-since completed)	19.83