

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred per quintal on maintenance and transportation of foodgrains during the last three years is as under :

Year	Storage cost per quintal of Average stock	Transportation cost per quintal moved
		Rs.
1992-93	3.29	21.55
1993-94	2.00	33.51
1994-95	1.95	29.23

The element of storage cost include depreciation of godowns/weigh-bridges/railway siding, establishment charges, repair and maintenance, stores and spares consumed, municipal taxes and rent for hired godowns.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) Increase in subsidy during the last three years is attributable to increase in procurement cost of grains, delayed and partial passing on the increase to the Public Distribution Systems etc. consumers, increase in freight rate and increase in the buffer stock.

(e) The amount of subsidy given by the Government to the Food Corporation of India during the last three years in as under :

Year	Amount of subsidy (Rs. in crores)	
1992-93	2800	(include 14.72 crores as sugar subsidy)
1993-94	5700	(include 162.86 crores as fertilizers subsidy)
1994-95	5100	(include 591 crores as sugar subsidy)

In Budget Estimates of the year 1996-97 the Government of India has made a provision of Rs. 5798 crores for food subsidy.

QUOTA OF SUGAR AND FOODGRAINS

1330. **Shri Nawal Kishore Rai :**
Shri Nitish Kumar :

Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) the difference in quantity of goods supplied to

consumers in the country under Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the Government have decided to increase the quota of Sugar Wheat and Rice given to States in view of adequate stock of these items in the Country;

(c) whether the Government have fixed quota by accepting the principle of providing goods at same rate and quantity to all the consumers in the country; and

(d) if so, the proposed monthly quota of consumption of Sugar, Rice, Wheat to each and every consumer of the country?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) to (d) Under the joint responsibility for the Public Distribution System, the Central Government has assumed responsibility for the procurement and allocation of Sugar, Wheat and Rice to the States/Union Territories. The State Government has the operational responsibility for implementation of Public Distribution System. Wheat and Rice are supplied to the nominees of State Governments/UTS at a uniform ex-godown price for issue in Public Distribution System. However, the retail prices of these foodgrains, also the eligibility criteria and scales of entitlement in the Public Distribution System are decided by the State Government/UTS. However, sugar is being distributed through Public Distribution System at a uniform retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kilogram throughout the country.

Bulk allocations of Wheat and Rice from Central Pool to various States/UTs for the Public Distribution System are being made on month-to-month basis, having regard to the stocks available, seasonal availability, relative needs and off-take trends.

Levy sugar allocations are made generally on a uniform norm of 425 gm per capita monthly availability to the projected population as on 1.10.1986 effective from 1.2.1987. It has now been decided to make levy allocations to all the States/UTs on the basis of 1991 census w.e.f. January, 1996 in view of better availability of sugar.

The allocation of all these commodities are supplemental in nature and not meant for meeting the entire requirement of State Governments/U.T. Adms.

[English]

MINING OF COLOUR STONES

1331. **Shri Rama Krishna Konathala :**
Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy :
Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi :

Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding unauthorised mining of precious colour stones in Sankaram Reserve Forest in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check unauthorised mining of these stones?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh that unauthorised extraction of coloured stones was attempted by villagers in Sankaram Reserve Forests in Kinthalli beat in Chodavaram Range, Visakhapatnam District on 21.1.1995. The forest staff took immediate steps to stop the illegal extraction. Fourteen cases were registered by the Forest Department and two cases registered by the Police.

(c) to (e) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Southern Region, Ministry of Environment and Forests was sent for on the spot assessment and the State Government have been advised to ensure that no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 takes place during investigating and prospecting of minerals in forest areas.

LOSS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1332. Shri Ashok Anandrao Deshmukh : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the country is losing over Rs. 3000 crore annually due to post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the seasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to minimise post harvest losses.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) and (b) No specific survey has been conducted to assess the exact quantity and amount of post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables. However, as per the report of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan titled "Perishable Agricultural Commodities (1991)", post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables has been estimated to be Rs. 30000-40000 million per annum due to unscientific handling of fruits and vegetables and inadequate infrastructure facilities.

(c) Government of India through National Horticulture Board has launched two schemes viz;

- (i) Integrated project on Post Harvest Management of horticultural produce and
- (ii) Development of Marketing through participation in soft loan under which soft loan assistance is being provided to strengthen post

harvest infrastructure like grading, packing, retain outlets, refrigerated transport vehicle, cold storage, packing material etc. and to improve marketing facilities to minimise the post harvest losses.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation also provides assistance in cooperative sector for cold storage, fruit & vegetable marketing cooperatives and fruit and vegetable processing.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industry is providing assistance for setting up of training centres in rural areas, fruit & vegetable processing units, establishment of infrastructure for mushrooms, generic advertising on processed foods and for marketing.

EXPORT AGREEMENT OF NDDB

1333. Shrimati Mahendra Kumari :
Shri Dattatraya Bandaru :

Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has signed some export agreements during the last three months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the estimated amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned annually as a result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Ayub Khan) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has signed an Export Cooperation Agreement on 21.9.95 with CAM Financing and General Trade SA, Switzerland for export of pulp, concentrates, juices of various tropical fruits etc. and tomato paste and other products manufactured and/or dealt with by the NDDB, for a period of five years.

The estimated amounts of foreign exchange (CIF) in million US dollars, likely to be earned annually in pursuance of the above Agreement, are given below :

1st Year	7.5
2nd Year	8.5
3rd Year	10.0
4th Year	10.0
5th Year	10.0

SUPPORT PRICES

1334. Shri Ram Kapse : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :