

mented. It will be our utmost effort to implement it w.e.f. 1st of April.

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, I do not know whether my supplementary will strictly come into the area of this question or not. Sir, we receive scores of letters from those who have come from different States and got jobs in Central Government that they do not get accommodation while many officials of the Central Government, having their own houses, do not want to leave their Government accommodation. Moreover, they sublet it also. But those who do not have accommodation at all are suffering. What action are you going to take to see that this kind of an illegal thing is ended and those who are recruited in the Central Government jobs, coming from different States, are provided with proper accommodation?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I would like to inform the hon. Members that in Delhi most people in service prefer to take Government accommodation, because their licence fee is very less. We do not have sufficient number of Government houses to meet the demand. The hon. Member has pointed out that despite having their own houses, people retain Government accommodation. In this connection, I would like to inform that the number of such cases are not many. In such cases, we put the condition that either they should give their own house to us or live in their own houses. This is the condition. Sometimes, action is taken, but their number is very few. In certain cases, when we see that the lease will expire after 8 months and the allottee makes a fervent appeal for extension, we grant extension on humanitarian grounds.

Supply of Substandard Foodgrains through FPS in Delhi

*308. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the foodgrains of substandard quality were distributed through the Fair Price Shops in Delhi during January, 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the samples of rice and wheat are tested before being released for distribution;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any directive has been issued in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The Delhi Administration has reported that supplies of foodgrains made in the period were generally not sub-standard. Food Corporation of India (FCI) issues foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) of prescribed quality, within the Standards of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Adequate precautions are taken at the time of procurement and during storage, for maintaining the quality of foodgrains.

In Delhi, foodgrains are delivered at the door steps of Fair Price Shops. Facilities have been given to recipients to inspect the stocks before taking delivery, and they need not accept sub-standard stocks. Since in an operation of this magnitude, some possibility of variation of quality cannot be ruled out,

Delhi Fair Price Shops owners can file a complaint in regard to quality of foodgrains within 72 hours of receipt. Replacements are ordered, where necessary.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally fair price shops are supplied superior quality of foodgrains. The shopkeepers of the fair price shops sell the superior quality foodgrains in the black market and distribute substandard foodgrains through F.P.S. In this connection, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether regular checks are conducted in fair price shops? If so, I would like to know the number of checks conducted during 1990-91 and 1991-92 and how many cases of irregularity have been detected in fair price shops? Out of them, against how many shops, cases have been filed and their licences cancelled consequently.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: You have asked about general checkings conducted in Delhi. As a matter of fact, the staff of Delhi Administration conduct regular checks. As required by you, I will certainly furnish you the figures of the total number of checks conducted during the year and the action taken thereon.

DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR: In my second supplementary, I have pointed out that these irregularities are mostly committed in rural areas. It is because the people living in rural areas are illiterate and poor, sub-standard items are supplied and that too under-weight. Will the hon. Minister please state whether he proposes to take action regarding the supply of substandard commodities and irregularities in weighing.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: The distributions done by Governments of various States and Union Territory Administrations in the case of Union territories. Our endeavour has always been to issue superior quality goods from godowns and subsequently it is supplied to fair price shops for distribution to the people. In this regard the Central Gov-

ernment has issued certain guidelines to State Governments and the State Governments in turn have issued their own instructions to their staff. Effort is always made to supply superior quality goods to fair price shops for the people.

DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR: The fair price shops complain of short supply of goods by F.C.I. How do you check it?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be replied.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that this matter does not concern Delhi alone but concerns the entire country. The hon. Minister in his statement has stated that the supply of foodgrains is generally not substandard. It implies that sub-standard foodgrains are supplied to some extent and since it involves large scale supplies the possibility of variation in quality cannot be ruled out. It indicates that if such a situation continues corruption can never be...

MR. SPEAKER: Bhavnaji not like this. Please put your question.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: No, Sir, it is a very important question, as it concerns the entire country. This system has been introduced for the poor people living across the country. As such, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government apart from deputing an inspector has taken any specific step or is proposing to take steps regarding the harassment caused to the consumers by the shopkeepers who either do not supply goods on time or say that they have already sold the goods? This is my question.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, my reply in respect of Delhi is specific for Delhi only. Every month about 10 lakh bags of

foodgrains reach Delhi on rotation and are supplied to fair price shops. The possibility of these minor lapses taking place cannot be ruled out. This is what I have said. The Central as well as State Governments make every effort to see that the Public Distribution System runs smoothly, the fair price shops get quality grains and ultimately quality grains are supplied to people. This is what we expect. If some irregularity is seen anywhere, it should not be construed to be a regular feature. The State Governments also do have their Civil Supply staff. They conduct regular checking in order to ensure supply of quality grains, the general principle is that at the time of issuing goods from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India, a sample is taken and kept at the fair price shops. If it is found that commodities supplied from the fair price shops are inferior to that sample, action could be initiated against the shop keepers and the licence of their shop (s) could be cancelled. Criminal proceedings could also be instituted against them.

SHRI TARA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that pesticides are supposed to be sprayed as per the specifications, in the godowns of Central Ware Housing Corporation and F.C.I. Huge funds are being allocated for this purpose. If you pass by any godown during the months from April to September, you will find thousands of pests flying around them making it extremely difficult for people to pass by them. Secondly, you will find foodgrains scattered on the roads up to a distance of 3 miles from the godowns. It is a criminal negligence and act of carelessness on the part of officers towards food. When asked about it, they say that the labourers of F.C.I. are not under their control. Is the hon. Minister aware of it and will he take some measures in this regard?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member is asking about any particular godown, I would certainly have it enquired into.....(Interruptions)

SHRI TARA SINGH: I am taking of all the godowns located in Karnal. It has made

people's life miserable who are living in a radius of one mile around these godowns.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the godowns of Central Ware Housing Corporation and the Food Corporation of India come under the Ministry of Food. I will request the Ministry to look into the matter.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the distribution of foodgrains through the Fair Price Shops in the *Jhuggi-Jhonpri* areas as also in the working-class bastis is very much irregular and it is drastically cut for the last so many months. If it is so, what are the reasons for that? Will it be rectified?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I would like to say that she is particularly meaning only Delhi *Jhuggi-Jhonpri* areas. There has been no cut in the ration of the Fair Price Shops and all the ration-card holders are getting the regular grains. There is no such shortage in Delhi.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Sir, it is not correct. I can bring the women to you from the *Jhuggi-Jhonpri* areas to prove this because we are getting so many complaints through our *Janwadi Mahila Samiti* saying that the ration supply is very much irregular and there is sharp cut in that. We can bring such examples to you. We can bring the women to you to prove this.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Being lean months, only in the months of December and January there was some reduction of the stock. But it was immediately restored in the month of February and from February onwards there is no such shortage. As I have just submitted, Delhi is being given more than a lakh tonne of grains every month.

Unauthorised Constructions in Chandigarh

*309. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: