

Damage of Foodgrains due to Inadequate Storage Capacity

865. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :
SHRI B. K. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the storage capacity of foodgrains in the country is inadequate due to which a large quantity of foodgrains either becomes rotten or gets damaged on account of improper storage every year;

(b) whether many a time the damaged foodgrains are supplied to the consumers through the fair price shops caring little for their health; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make arrangements for adequate number of godowns during the current Five Year Plan period and the amount earmarked therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The covered storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India is not sufficient to store the foodgrain stocks with the Corporation. As a result, some foodgrain has to be kept by the Corporation in the open under polythene covers. Adequate precautions are taken to protect these stocks against losses. Nevertheless, some losses do take place on this account.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Efforts are on to construct as also hire additional storage capacity for foodgrains. An outlay of Rs. 240.00 crores has been provided for construction of additional storage capacity during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. This would enable an additional capacity of about 5.00 million tonnes to be constructed during the Plan period, of which about 4.00 million tonnes would be available for foodgrains.

Telecast of States Festivals by Doordarshan

866. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the festivals of different States which are covered by the Doordarshan in its live telecast programme;

(b) whether the famous Car festival of puri and sitalsasthi festival of Sambalpur in Orissa are among these festivals;

(c) if so, whether live telecast of these two festivals was done this year;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is proposed to be done in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) The Doordarshan Kendras have so far not arranged live telecast of any festival from any part of the country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) and (e). As per policy, the live television coverages are limited to events of nation-wide topicality such as Republic Day Parade, Independence Day, International Conferences, Visits of eminent world leaders, important sports activities etc. There is no proposal at present to take up live telecasting of festivals of different states.

Setting up of a Council of Labour Cooperatives

867. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up a council of labour cooperatives at the national level is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what is likely to be the councils composition, functions and the role to be played by the council; and

(c) whether any provision to aid the council has been made in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed National Advisory Council of Labour Cooperatives may include representatives of Central and State Governments; cooperatives and work awarding agencies. The Council will be an

advisory body on matters relating to the promotion and strengthening of labour co-operatives.

(c) The Council will be an Advisory Body and no aid to the Council as such is envisaged. The Council will be serviced by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Supply of Imported Edible Oils to Consumers in States at reasonable rates

868. SHRI R. M. BHOYE :
SHRI JAGANNATH PATTAIK :
SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have recently decided to make satisfactory supply of imported edible oils to the States;

(b) whether Centre has also urged the States to initiate and ensure availability of imported edible oils to consumers particularly to the weaker sections of the society at reasonable rates;

(c) if so, whether Central Government has also fixed ceiling on the retail price for distribution of edible oils through the Fair Price Shops; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The Central Government has been making allocation of imported edible oils under the Public Distribution System to States/Union Territories on month to month basis taking into consideration the realistic assessment of the demand, price and availability of indigenous edible oils within the State and availability of stocks with State Trading Corporation of India and other factors like pace of lifting of oils allocated earlier, etc.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Government have issued instructions to State Governments

and Union Territories in regard to fixation of ceiling on retail prices of imported edible oils distributed through the public Distribution System to consumers as follows :

(1) Rs. 9.65 per kg. for plain areas for imported edible oils supplied in bulk.

(2) Rs. 11.00 per kg. for plain areas for imported edible oils supplied in tins.

(3) Rs. 11.50 per kg. for Hill areas for imported edible oils supplied in tins.

(local taxes can be charged extra)

The State Governments have been asked to take such action as may be considered appropriate for ensuring that reasonable prices, within the ceiling, are fixed and are made available to consumers, particularly the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society.

Norms for the definition of 'Problem Village' under Drinking Water Supply Programme

869. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of WORK AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the norms for the definition of 'problem village' under the drinking water supply programme is now being revised and whether the distance between the source of drinking water and place of residence is now reduced to 500 metres of 1.5 km.; and

(b) whether safe drinking water will be provided for every 200 persons ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) The revised norms for providing drinking water in rural areas under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme are given in the statement below.

(b) The existing population norm is to provide one source of safe drinking water for every 250-300 persons and there is no proposal at present to reduce it to 200 persons.