

he also can sit. It can be passed today or tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)*. I suggest that as there is a demand, let it be passed. Sir, you allow the suspension of Question Hour and let it be moved and passed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Our leader has agreed, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, if all the party leaders are agreed on this point, I will go and talk to the Prime Minister. I will come back in 10 to 15 minutes and let you know about it.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. He will go, consult the Prime Minister and come back.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, it is enough. I think this much is enough.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Even before this Bill is introduced, they have already occupied my seat.

MR. SPEAKER : Before the Bill is introduced, you are occupying the seat.

Question number 561.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Foodgrains Stock at FCI Godowns

*561. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice available in the godowns of Food Corporation of India at the end of June 1995;

(b) the quantity of wheat and rice exported by the FCI during the year 1995;

(c) whether the financial needs of FCI are likely to be fulfilled by the export of wheat and rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A Statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The quantity of wheat and rice available in the Central Pool held by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Agencies as on 30th June, 1995, was approximately as under :

(In million tonnes)

	FCI	State Agencies	Total
Wheat	8.7	10.5	19.2
Rice	15.1	1.3	16.4
Total	23.8	11.8	35.6

(b) FCI did not export wheat and rice directly except 2000 tonnes of rice exported to Nepal on Government Account. Wheat and rice sold during 1995 by the FCI for export purposes to exporters including Public Sector Undertakings was about 0.34 lakh tonnes and 14.01 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) and (d) The sale of rice and wheat by the FCI for the purposes of export was made at rates higher than the Central Issue Prices for PDS as well as for the domestic open sale, but below the economic cost. The FCI was authorised to sell for export with a view to reduce the surplus stocks in Central Pool and for making available storage space for fresh procurement of rice and wheat. The estimated savings in the amount of subsidy payable to the FCI because of these export sales is of the order of Rs. 72 crores during 1995-96.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been mentioned that 35.6 million tonnes of wheat and rice have been stored in the Central Pool, while the production figure for 1994-95 says that 68 million tonnes of wheat was produced and 82 million tonnes of rice was produced. That means, 150 million tonnes of foodgrains were produced in 1994-95 and the figure for 1996-97 would certainly be much more. In view of the shortage of storage facilities, there is a lot of damage and wastage of foodgrains. You might have heard of a multi-crore scam in storage of foodgrains in Punjab and Haryana and also in procurement, transportation and many other things.

Sir, it is very strange that in my constituency, the city of Amalner, which is about 60 kms. from Jalgaon, is getting the foodgrains from Manmad which is about 135 kms. away and not from Jalgaon. These are the ways of the Food Corporation of India to transact its functions.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question now.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : There are various shortfalls. On the basis of experience of the last five years, may I know from the hon. Minister whether a critical review of the performance of the Food Corporation of India was undertaken by any competent authority to realistically assess the achievements of the Food Corporation of India and identify the failures with reference to the challenging tasks assigned to the organisation in the wake of globalisation. If so, what specific steps have been initiated to improve the working efficiency, to reduce the administrative costs, to streamline administrative procedures, to effect transparency in operation and various vigilance procedures and to specifically reduce the losses in the warehouses ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very long question. Please give a short reply.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The answer may be short.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question of the hon Member was as to how much foodgrain was there with the agencies of the FCI and in Central Pool ? I, in my reply, stated the position of the stock. The hon. Member stated about the storage of production and making it transparent. The production of Wheat in 1995-96 was 626 lakh tonne against the previous year's production of 650 lakh tonne. Thus, this year's production was 30 lakh tonne less and procurement also was 41 lakh tonne less. So far as the storage is concerned, storage capacity is being improved in the areas under RDPs and where there is storage problem, the proposal for construction of godowns of the FCI in those areas is under consideration of the Government. It will be our endeavour that the tribal and backward areas do not experience shortage of storage.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Asim Bala.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Sir, I have to ask my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. I thought that you have combined it in the first supplementary.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Sir, in the statement of the Minister he has stated that nothing much has been done on the export side. I have gone through various reports and it is said that in 1996-97, the target of export for wheat has been fixed at 2.5 million tonnes and out of that, they have exported hardly 6.7 lakh tonnes. The same is the case with rice for which the export target was 1.5 million tonnes. It has not been achieved so far.

We find that India is certainly losing its export market. I think, it is the responsibility of the Government and the Food Corporation of India to look into it. They are not paying much attention to that. About 43 exporters have already complained that FCI is not tackling this problem. I do not want to explain it in detail. They have laid down various conditions. They increase the prices frequently but they do not give delivery in time. There are other problems also. That is why, we are losing the export market. If we have the shortage of storage and our production is increasing, the exports should have been one of the main targets of the Government to earn foreign exchange. May I ask the Government and the Minister what specific steps are being taken by the Government to see that FCI discharges this crucial responsibility of overcoming various difficulties as far as the export is concerned ?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1995-96, 50 lakh tonne non-basmati rice was

exported. India has been considered second largest rice exporting country in the world. In the year 1995-96, 6.2 lakh tonne wheat was exported which was mentioned in the answer to main Question. The target of wheat export in 1996-97 was 10 lakh tonne for non-hybrid and 5 lakh tonne for hybrid variety of wheat. I have already told you that India occupies second position in rice export. We export only after paying attention and priority to food security of the country. We can export the rice and wheat which is surplus from our food security. We would promote export but we must keep in mind the PDS consumption and foodgrain requirement of the country. Therefore, the export depends much on the quantity of stock and production.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, several thousand workers who are engaged in loading and unloading in different FCI depots in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other States are facing an anomaly and a discrimination from FCI authorities in respect of payment system and pension. The same depots follow different systems of payment like direct payment system, contract payment system, etc. Around one lakh employees are working in these depots and out of them only 25,000 are regular workers.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the FCI is going to remove this anomaly. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the Prime Minister has arrived. This Bill should be passed without any discussion to show a gesture to the country. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we met the hon. Prime Minister today morning and he assured us ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Normally the Question Hour should not be interrupted like this. But I think it is a special case.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a historical case.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you not listening to me ? I am all for you. If you want me to help you, then you keep quiet. Since it is a special case, let me tell the Prime Minister that the House is unanimous that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill should be introduced and passed today.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you dispense with the rules.

MR. SPEAKER : I am ready to dispense with the rules.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Thank you, Sir.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate almost all the lady Members of both the Houses. They are united in fighting for their cause.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : You have to include the male Members also.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not catching the Prime Minister's point.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Why I mentioned this is because in the morning, irrespective of the political parties, a delegation consisting of only lady Members approached me. That is why, I said this. I would like to make it clear that I do not want to mix politics in this. Last time itself, I have mentioned in the House that almost all the political parties have made an assurance in their manifestoes that they were willing to give reservation to ladies this time. That was the assurance given in the manifestoes of almost all the political parties, if I am correct. I have seen the B.J.P.'s manifesto and I have also seen the Congress manifesto.

In fact, I would like to make it clear that in 1994 Assembly elections which we fought, the assurance was given in our manifesto to provide 33.33 per cent reservation for the ladies in the Assemblies as well as in the Lok Sabha. I gave this assurance and Shri Bangarappa is here. In my manifesto, I have made this point very clear. I approved it and sent a delegation to meet almost all the political party leaders. I think Shri Vajpayee was met by the delegation from Karnataka, headed by Shrimati Leelavati R. Prasad. Shri Somnath Babu had also met the delegation from Karnataka, if I am correct. Before the parliamentary elections, about five to six months back, they came here and they met almost all political party leaders including the Prime Minister and then submitted a memorandum. At least today, in the Fiftieth Year of Independence, all of you have now come together.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I request the Prime Minister to move this Bill. Let him move this Bill.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : The Cabinet had already taken the decision to introduce the Bill. The only thing is that the House has to give some time.

MR. SPEAKER : It has been listed in today's Business for introduction.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : In addition to the Business that is pending before the House, I will give this assurance—all other Business should also be over

according to the Business Advisory Committee's decision—that I myself am going to introduce this Bill. I do not know whether the House is prepared to pass the Bill without any discussion because if discussion takes place, then again it is a question of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister, the introduction of the Bill is today. It has been listed in today's Business. You can introduce the Bill today.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : We have already taken the decision.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, if you introduce the Bill today, what is the harm ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Even today, if the Bill is going to be passed without any discussion, I am agreeable to it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There will be no discussion. As the hon. Prime Minister himself admitted that there is a national consensus, to mark the occasion, I humbly request you to suspend the Question Hour and let the Prime Minister move the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I will give my ruling now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. K.P. Ramalingam, please listen. I think the Prime Minister has a point that we have no other item to dispose of. This Bill has to be passed. U.P. Budget has to be passed. The Journalists Bill has to be passed. So, time constraint is there. But the Prime Minister has agreed to introduce this Bill today and get it passed without discussion and I understand that it is the sense of the House that this Bill should be taken up today and passed today. It is going to be a very historic decision.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The whole House is with you. You can waive the rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Shall we take up the Bill immediately after the Question Hour ?

...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I think, the Question Hour is to be suspended now.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You must suspend the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : As a special case, Shri Somnath Chatterjee may move a motion for the suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Under rule 388, I move that the Question Hour be suspended ...*(Interruptions)*

I beg to move :

"That the relevant rule relating to the Question Hour, namely Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, be suspended."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the relevant rule relating to the Question Hour, namely Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, be suspended."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : So, the Question Hour is suspended. The Prime Minister will move the Bill.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

TV Serials

*562. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of serials/programmes being telecast on Doordarshan for the last one or more than one year;

(b) whether some producers have established their monopoly in Doordarshan;

(c) the categories of programmes produced by Doordarshan through outsiders;

(d) whether some irregularities have come to the notice in granting approval of serials by Doordarshan resulting in loss of crores of rupees;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to revise the guidelines for approval of serials;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government also propose to set-up 'Doordarshan all Party MPs Advisory Council' to control the unrestricted approval of TV programmes; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Information is being collected from the Kendras in the country and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Doordarshan commissions programmes to outside producers in various formats which include telefilms, serials, feature films, documentaries, news features, field based programmes, interviews etc.

(d) Such complaints are received at various kendras and the Directorate General, Doordarshan from time to time. Complaints of a serious nature and indicative of gross procedural irregularities are enquired into departmentally and the matter referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) whenever warranted.

(e) During the last three years six such complaints were received out of which two have been investigated by CBI. In one case the CBI has launched prosecution proceedings against the concerned officer while in another its investigations are still on. In the remaining four cases departmental enquiry is in progress.

(f) to (h) There is no such proposal at present.

(i) Does not arise.

Decanalisation of Sugar Export

*563. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to decanalise the sugar export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have thought about the impact of decanalising of export on the demand and supply balance in the domestic market before taking such decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Indian Sugar and General Industry Export-Import Corporation Limited (ISGEIC) has opposed the above decision; and

(f) if so, the details of objections raised by the ISGEIC?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is of the view that decanalisation of export would provide the needed incentive to sugar manufacturing units to produce good quality sugar and earn their place in the International export market.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Export of only surplus quantity of sugar would be notified after ensuring that adequate quantities are available for domestic market.

(e) and (f) The Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. (ISGEIC) have not as yet