

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c) Registrar, Cooperative Societies has reported that the case is still pending for decision in the High Court and there are also 3 Writ Petitions pending before the Supreme Court. The matter is sub-judice.

(d) The Registrar, Cooperative Societies has intimated that the Audit of this society has been completed from 1967-68 to 1979-80 by the departmental auditors. The reports since 1977 onwards are under scrutiny.

Setting up Consumer Cooperative Societies in big Cities

9557. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1963 a proposal was approved to set up consumer co-operative societies in big metropolitan cities to help stabilise the rising prices and make essential commodities available at reasonable rates;

(b) if so, reasons for non implementing the decisions taken:

(c) whether such societies are not proposed to be set up in all metropolitan cities with Headquarters at New Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) to (c) In November, 1962 the Government of India had communicated to the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing financial assistance for organisation of Consumer Cooperative Stores, to cover towns and cities with a population of more than 50,000. Cities with a population of more than a lakh were to be taken up first.

As on 30th June, 1981, there were 488 wholesale/central stores, with 3,903 branches including 200 department stores, covering all the major towns and cities.

Enquiry into Shortage of Fertilisers in CONS Ignments

9558. SHRI H. H. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that often the consignments of fertilizer received at the port is found to be shorter than the quantum ordered for and if so, such shortages noticed during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the usual shortage that is inherent in such transactions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the trend is increasing and whether supplies were either not billed for such short landings or the bills preferred were less than the actual losses; and

(d) whether an enquiry into the matter will be made and if made already what are the finding of the enquiry and whether responsibility has been fixed for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The weight of fertilizer cargo is determined at loading ports before sailing and at unloading ports in India arrival for each shipment. The difference between the two becomes the voyage shortage or excess. During discharge at Indian ports some loss, which is inherent in such operations, takes place and is called handling loss. During 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981, over-all shortage, on both counts, was less than 1 — as will be evident from the following:

Year	Percentage Shortage
1978	0.46
1979	0.41
1980	0.61
1981	* .017*

*This information is not for complete calendar year.

(b) Major quantum of fertilizer is now shipped in bulk form. In such shipments loss upto 1 per cent is considered reasonable.

(c) The overall voyage loss and handling loss at ports went down in 1979 and 1981. The supplier is paid on the basis of weight determined at the loading port. According to the terms of International Maritime Consultation Organisation, the responsibility of the supplier is over as soon as the cargo has crossed the ship's tackle. If there is any shortage during voyage or on arrival, it is taken up with ship owners. However, there were number of shipments where excess was found on arrival. No claim can be lodged against suppliers and ship owners for loss due to handling at Indian ports.

(b) A Team of Canadian Experts studied the fertilizer handling at Major Indian ports. On their recommendations, bulk fertiliser unloading and handling have been mechanised at Kandla, Bombay and Madras. The mechanised arrangement at Haldia is likely to be commissioned by the middle of 1982.

Shortage of Wheat and Rice in Railway Wagon Loaded at Jagraon (Ludhiana) Destined for Sanatnagar, Andhra Pradesh

9559. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during March, 1982 some wagons of wheat/rice loaded at Jagraon (Ludhiana) destination for Sanatnagar were raised by special squad of Food Corporation of India and an average shortage of 35qtls. was found in each wagon; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Special of 70 wagons sent from Jagraon to Sholapur (Maharashtra) and Sanatnagar (A. P.) was found to contain heavy shortages ranging between 9 kg to 15 kg. per bag; if so, the details thereof, along with the particulars of the officials involved and the action taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During March, 1982, a special squad of the Food Corporation of India Head Office inspected one wagon out of a special of wheat, loaded ex-Jagraon to Sanatnagar (not Sholapur). The inspection revealed a shortage of 34 quintals 66 kgs. 200 grams in that particular wagon.

The special comprised of 22 BCXT and 17 CRT wagons loaded with 17115 bags as per dispatch documents. Another Head Office Squad in association with their Regional office Andhra Pradesh checked the remaining wagons of the special which were received at Sanatnagar. An average shortage of about 6 kgs. per bag was detected.

In all ten officials of the Food Corporation of India including two Assistant Managers have been placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings against them are in progress.

News-item 'Every Tenth Ration Card Bogus in Capital'

9561. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item "Every tenth ration card bogus in Capital" appearing in the Indian Express of 14.4.1982 bringing out the fact that;

(i) how were ration cards issued on addresses which did not exist and how is existence of bogus ration cards possible without collusion of the fair price shops, rationing staff and touts when the inspectors are supposed to make physical verification before recommending issue of cards; (ii) withdrawing rice and wheat for sale in market by the Fair Price Shops! (iii) accumulation of wealth and assets disproportionate to known sources of income of both the Inspectors and fair price shops, coal, cement and kerosene oil dealers;