

(d) In order to elicit views of all concerned sectors in the matter and inter-Ministerial meeting involving the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India has been held recently.

[Translation]

Buffer Stocks of Foodgrains

1023. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was sufficient quantity of Wheat and Rice in the buffer stock in the country as on March, 1998

(b) if so, the quantity of Wheat and Rice separately; and

(c) the extent to which the buffer stock would suffice the Public Distribution System requirement of the country during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was sufficient quantity of Wheat and Rice as compared to the buffer stock norms. The minimum stocks of Wheat and Rice required to be maintained as per the prescribed buffer stock norms and the stock available in the Central Pool as on 1st April, 1998 (i.e. closing balance as on 31.3.98) are as under :-

(Qty. in million tonnes)

Minimum buffer norms prescribed		Stock in the Central Pool	
Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
3.70	10.80	5.08P	13.05(P)

(P) : Provisional

(c) There is sufficient stock of Wheat and Rice to meet the requirement of Public Distribution System of the country during the current year.

Export of Sugar

1024. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given licence for export of Sugar to Sugar Mills;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar to be exported by each sugar mill particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government have exported sugar during the last two months; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the loss incurred by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is not undertaking any export of sugar and as such the question of loss to the Government does not arise.

[English]

Cases of Hepatitis B

1025. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of Hepatitis B reported from various States as on March 31, 1998 State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent this disease;

(c) whether any special allocation is given to State Governments to prevent this disease; and

(d) if so, the details of Central assistance provided to the various State Governments during each of the last three years; state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No authentic data is available of the number of deaths caused by Hepatitis-B infection alone. However, according to available data, the number of cases of Viral Hepatitis (all types) during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (provisional) is as follows :

Year	No. of Persons Infected	No. of persons died
1995	98940	943
1996	117954	801
1997	89038	982