

to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food stuff being manufactured and sold in the country and take appropriate legal action against those violating the PFA Act and Rules.

[English]

Sale of Sub-standard Medicines

1081. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the medicines, particularly tablets and syrups are not at all effectively because they are of cheap quality;

(b) if so, whether any complaints has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) All Medicines including tablets and Syrups manufactured and sold in the Country are required to comply with quality para-meters stated in the Books of standard (Pharmacopoeias), as prescribed in Second Schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules framed thereunder. Failure to do so would attract necessary punitive action like withdrawal of the Batch of Drugs sold, withdrawal of permission granted to manufacture the specific item, suspension/cancellation of manufacturing Licences or prosecution of the manufacturers as per the provision of the Drugs and cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules the retander.

There are a number of instance when samples of the Drugs tasted revealed that these are either of substandard quality or spurious.

(b) and (c) Whenever specific complaints of poor quality drugs are brought to the notice of the Government, necessary investigations are carried out by the Drug Control Authorities of States/U.Ts, and necessary punitive action taken against defaulters.

[Translation]

Procurement Price of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

1082. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement price of wheat, rice and sugar during each of the last three years till date;

(b) whether there is any increase in the procurement prices of these items every time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the procurement of wheat, rice and sugar was satisfactory during the said period:

(e) if so, the details thereof year-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed by the Government for wheat and paddy during the last three marketing seasons are as under:

Marketing Year	Paddy			Wheat
	Common	Fine	Super Fine	
	1995-96	360	375	
1996-97	380	395	415	380
1997-98	415	Grade 'A'		415+60
		445		(Central bonus)

Procurement prices of levy rice vary from state to state depending on the level of statutory charges prevailing in each state Ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the sugar seasons 1994-95- 1996-97 is attached in the given statements.

(b) and (c) : the minimum Support Prices or wheat 36X

nature. The MBBS have been raised on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account a number of factors such as cost of production reasonable return to the farmers, etc.

Procurement prices of levy rice are increased after taking into account MSP of paddy, statutory taxes and levies milling charges and other incidental charges, output ratio of rice from paddy, etc.

As regards sugar, the increase in Statutory Minimum Price for Sugarcane and conversion cost results in rise in the exfactory levy sugar prices.

(d), (e) & (f) Quantities of wheat and rice procured for Central Pool during the last three Marketing Seasons are as under:-

Marketing Year	(IN LAKH TONNES)	
	Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)	Wheat
1995-96	99.50	123.27
1996-97	122.57	81.83
1997-98	136.56 (upto 25-5-98)	82.97