

has since been discontinued w.e.f 1996-97. Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution are given to the States/UTs to meet the cost of such schemes of development of Tribals and raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas therein to that of the Administration of the rest of the areas in the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The guidelines have no such provisions.

[English]

Rice and Wheat Lying in Open

4753. SHRI BHAKTACHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of rice and wheat lying in the open is rotting in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible therefor;

(c) the amount of loss incurred and likely to be incurred due to the said situation; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Rice stocks are not stored in open. Only wheat and paddy are stored in open (cover and plinth) on scientific lines as a temporary measure due to paucity of covered accommodation and to accommodate incoming levy/custom milled rice stocks in the covered godowns. Since wheat and paddy stocks are stored in open with proper care, there is no chance of rotting of the same.

However, due to natural calamities like unprecedented rains, cyclones, floods, high velocity wind followed by rains, etc., some stocks get drenched which are salvaged and the segregated stocks found unfit for human consumption are declared as damaged foodgrains and sold as such to the State Government (Animal Husbandry Deptts.) and in case no time bound response is received from them, such damaged stocks are sold to registered and State Government licensed firms who have the facilities to use the same for direct consumption of animals or to manufacture cattle or poultry feeds or as Industrial (starch) products or manure use.

The percentage of such damages (both in CAP and covered storage complex) for the last three years with

reference to average total foodgrains held during each year is given below:

Year	Total Foodgrain Stocks (as on 1st April)	(in lakh MT)	
		Damaged Foodgrains	Percentage
1993-94	187.19	0.46	0.25
1994-95	207.50	0.19	0.09
1995-96	144.86	0.33	0.23

(d) The stocks of foodgrains with FCI are stored in scientifically designed godown or CAP storages. To meet the urgent requirements of storage accommodation wheat and paddy are stored under CAP with proper precaution to avoid any damages. In order to ensure proper storage and preservation of stocks, the FCI undertakes construction of godowns at appropriate places to reduce its dependence on temporary CAP storages.

[Translations]

Wheat Procurement

4754. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement season has been advanced from 1st April to 17th March, 1997;

(b) if so, its benefit in the matter of procurement of wheat so far;

(c) the total estimated quantity of wheat procured so far and its comparison with preceding three years;

(d) whether the Government are aware that in the surplus States of Haryana and Punjab, the farmers are not selling their stocks to the Government;

(e) whether the Government are considering to raise the support price as requested for by the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab in view of the cost of the imported wheat higher than the demanded price of Rs. 550;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.