

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c). Locations of both the proposed projects are situated in Nepal. While final agreement has not been reached in respect of Karnali project, Jalkundi Project was not acceptable to HMR Nepal.

N.T.C. Showrooms

1507. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to open N.T.C. showrooms in all towns; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on Inter-State Movement of Foodgrains

1508. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lift ban on the Inter-State Movement of foodgrains from the current Rabi season;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this arrangement would be applicable for all the foodgrains or for specific foodgrains only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL

SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (d). There is no ban on the movement of rice, wheat and coarse grains. In view of the need to maximise procurement of rice for public stocks, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh Administration have imposed inter-State movement restrictions on paddy. Rajasthan and Pondicherry have imposed, respectively, 25% and 30% export levy on paddy.

It is proposed to consider the feasibility of removing these restrictions on inter-state movement of paddy in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

[English]

Cost Effectiveness in FCI

1509. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is perpetual increase in establishment costs in the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to contain this by adopting modern management tools;

(c) whether the subsidy to Food Corporation of India is continuously rising threatening the very existence of the Food Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to reduce this subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Establishment costs in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years have been as follows:

Year	Establishment cost (Rs./Crores)
1986-87	169.95
1987-88	197.20
1988-89 (Provisional)	386.22

The increase in establishment costs has mainly been because of

(i) payment of interim relief and instalments of dearness allowances to the officers and staff;

(ii) payment of wage revision arrears to Category III & IV staff.

(b) the Corporation has effected ban on entry level posts except in cases of operational and other necessities. the Corporation has also taken steps to improve the productivity by making its officers and staff conversant with modern management systems through continuous training programmes.

(c) The quantum of food subsidy depends on the level of procurement, issue prices, quantum of supplies under various schemes and the level of buffer stocks etc. Food Subsidy released to FCI during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount of Food Subsidy (Rs. in crores)
1986-87	2000
1987-88	2000
1988-89	2200

The difference between the economic cost and issue prices of grains is paid as subsidy

to FCI as a deliberate welfare policy of the Central Government to keep the prices of grains within the reach of the common consumers.

(d) The Food Corporation of India have taken steps to reduce its operational costs such as capital restructuring, reduction in staff strength, reduction in transit and storage losses, dehiring of uneconomic/surplus godowns etc. FCI saved Rs. 640.91 crores during the period from 1986-87 to 1989-90 (upto December,1989) and consequently there was reduction in the food subsidy to the above extent.

Meet on National Consumer Protection Council

1510. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAV-
INCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of
FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the meeting of the National
Consumer Protection Council was held re-
cently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and the
decisions taken at the meeting; and

(c) the progress made in the implemen-
tation of the decisions taken at the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):
(a) No, Sir. The last meeting was held on
30th August, 1989.

(b) and (c). In view of above question
does not arise.

Cancellation of Retail Coal Licences

1511. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the
Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be
pleased to state: