

(c) The foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) procured under the Minimum price support operations and stocked in the Central Pool are mainly for distribution at concessional rate of Central Issue Price (C.I.P.) under Public Distribution System (P.D.S.) and at further subsidised rate (Rs. 50/- less per quintal than CIP) under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). In view of the comfortable stock position, far in excess of the normal requirement for PDS/RPDS, the Government decided to undertake open Sale within the specified ceilings for domestic use and for exports at rates higher than CIP in order to reduce the huge stocks/carrying costs and to make the storage space available for ongoing/ensuing Procurement. The open Sale Price for export are fixed by taking into account the merchantability of rice and wheat in the public stocks and International prices.

FCI have sold a quantity of about 15.98 lakhs tonnes of rice from its stocks, upto February, 1996. No wheat was sold upto February, 1996. FCI has not undertaken direct export which requires incurring of additional expenditure towards upgradation, handling and loading at port, etc. In the process, the FCI have as of now estimated a saving of about Rs. 50 crores in subsidy by selling rice for export

(d) and (e) As per the existing policy open Sales were to be made at prices fixed from time to time on the basis of the recommendations of a High Level Committee and as such no tenders were floated. Hence, all these factors taken into account, the question of any loss/fixing responsibilities does not arise. No grants were released to the FCI specifically for undertaking sales for export.

[English]

Inter-State River Water Disputes

*178. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a number of Inter-State river water disputes at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position of each of the dispute;

(c) the details of the discussions held in the meeting of National Water Resources Council held on February 6, 1996 to resolve these disputes;

(d) the outcome thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to declare river water as a National asset so as to regulate their utilisation by the Union Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the principles evolved for division of the river

waters among upper riparian and lower riparian States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, the Central Government has so far constituted the following Tribunals :

1. Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (April, 1969)
2. Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (April, 1969)
3. Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (October, 1969)
4. Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal (April, 1986)
5. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (June, 1990)

The first three Tribunals have already given their final awards whereas Ravi-Beas Tribunal and Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are still continuing.

(c) and (d) National Water Board (N.W.B.) of the National Water Resources Council (N.W.R.C.) prepared a draft Policy Guidelines for allocation of waters of Inter-State rivers amongst States. The draft guidelines were discussed in the third meeting of the N.W.R.C. held on 6.2.1996 at New Delhi. In the light of the opinions expressed by various Chief Ministers, N.W.B. has been advised to revise the guidelines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Basic principles/policy guidelines for equitable distribution amongst the co-basin states suggested in modified "draft National Policy Guidelines" for water allocation are featured as under :

- i) Contribution of each of the basin state to the waters of the basin.
- ii) Demand of water made by each of the basin state.
- iii) Practicability of utilisation of water demanded.
- iv) Availability of alternative or supplementary sources for fulfilment of the demand.
- v) Need for developing the water of river basin, for the well being of the nation.

Blind persons

*179. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :