

(c) to (e) Five cases have been reported by FCI regarding major irregularities in release of wheat as under:—

- (i) Preliminary investigation made by FCI Vigilance Squad revealed that during June, 1996, 22,500 tonnes of wheat were allotted to Karnal District (Haryana) for open sale. Out of this allotment, release orders for 14,775 tonnes were issued by 6.6.96. On 7.6.96, 102 parties had deposited the demand draft en-block. Investigations conducted revealed that the principle of "First-Come-First-Served" was not followed by the officials of District Office, Karnal. It was also seen that the officials there had issued the release orders even on the back date to 18 parties without any specific approval of District Manager, the competent authority. The Police registered a case against the erring officials. The houses of some of the FCI officials were raided by the police. Two FCI officials were taken into custody. 5 officers/officials have been placed under suspension, including one Category I Officer. The State Government has handed over the case to CBI.
- (ii) In another case, the State Vigilance Deptt. raided the District Office, Rohtak (Haryana) on the basis of a complaint. During the course of the raid, currency notes were reported to have been recovered from the residence of some FCI officials. In this case 4 officials were placed under suspension. FIR has been registered by the Police on 31.1.1996.
- (iii) There has also been a case where it was reported that about 10,000 tonnes of wheat was sold in Orissa to traders from A.P. instead of local traders. After investigation, major penalty proceedings have been initiated.
- (iv) There was a complaint that in West Bengal quantity of about 24,000 tonnes of wheat was sold just in one day and the State Civil Supplies Corporation was denied allotment. The Investigating Officer stated that the State Civil Supplies Corporation denied having made any formal request for allotment of wheat. It was also found that the concerned FCI officer had exceeded the prescribed limit of allotment.
- (v) In yet another case a complaint regarding issue of Release Orders for 2000 tonnes of wheat after receiving illegal gratification was reported in Gujarat. The investigation in this case has not been completed as yet.

Godowns

5436. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of godowns hired by the Food Corporation of India in Maharashtra;

(b) the total amount spent on rent for these godowns during 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government propose to open/construct more godowns in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) The Food Corporation of India has hired 34 godowns (33 Covered and one Cover and Plinth) in the State of Maharashtra as on 1.4.1996.

(b) An amount of Rs. 8.49 crores was spent on account of rent for these hired godowns by the FCI during the year 1995-96.

(c) and (d) There is an ongoing project of construction of a godown of FCI at Sholapur with a capacity of 10,000 MT which is likely to be completed by the end of 1996-97.

[*Translation*]

Fisherman Community

5437. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the States in the country where the fisherman community has been placed under Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category;

(b) whether Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes certificates are issued by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra etc. to the fisherman community in the name of Majhwar, Gond, Turajha, Mallah, Beldar, Dewar, Maazhi etc. sub-castes;

(c) if so, the details alongwith their occupation and social status of these castes;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to include the fisherman community in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No community by the name of 'Fisherman' has been specified as a Scheduled Caste