

Increase in Price of Essential Items under PDS

*124. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to increase the price of items under PDS;

(b) if so, what would be the percentage of such hike;

(c) how much subsidy would be nullified by this increase; and

(d) what would be the impact of this hike on common man, if effected?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as follows:—

Item	Percentage Hike	
(i) Wheat		
For families below poverty line (BPL)	68	With effect from 1.4.2000
For families above poverty line (APL)	18.8	
(ii) Rice		
For families below poverty line (BPL)	68	With effect from 1.4.2000
For families above poverty line (APL)	30	
(iii) Sugar	8.3	With effect from 1.3.2000
(iv) Kerosene Oil	Nil	

(c) During the next financial year, the subsidy savings on wheat and rice will be around Rs. 1200 crores. For sugar, there will be a saving of Rs. 528 crores.

(d) For wheat and rice, the BPL families will have a net saving in

their family food budget, since the monthly quota will be raised from 10 kgs. to 20 kgs. In case of sugar, the impact on consumer will be nominal.

Prevention of Deafness and Japanese Encephalitis

*125. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the programme for prevention of deafness and impairment of hearing and Japanese Encephalitis Control in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, how these are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) All India Institute of Speech & Hearing, Mysore is currently carrying out a pilot project with Plan funds on Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment. In addition, E.N.T. Department in Government Hospitals provide treatment of ear infections, which if left unattended could lead to hearing loss/deafness.

Under the National Anti-Malaria Programme, technical guidance and material assistance is provided to the State Governments for prevention and control of various vector borne diseases, including Japanese Encephalitis.

Recovery of penalty from Ranbaxy

*126. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recovered Rs. 40 crores penalty from M/s. Ranbaxy for overcharge on Revital;

(b) whether it is a fact that Revital has been approved as food supplement;

(c) if so, the name of Officers involved in supporting overcharge and granting approval to Revital as food supplement, keeping aside the rules and regulations of Drugs and Cosmetic Act;