

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Super Bazar is an autonomous organization having its own Board of Directors to take decisions on their day to day administrative and business matters and the Government of India do not interfere in such matters. The Super Bazar has, however, informed that due to ongoing financial crisis, it has not been able to make timely payment for the outstanding dues to the suppliers as a result of which, it has not been able to make full supplies to its medicine outlets. However, the supply of life saving drugs is being maintained by the Super Bazar. The Super Bazar has further informed that it proposes to get loan from financial institutions to overcome the financial crisis which would enable it to make timely payment to the suppliers and ensure maximum availability of medicines.

Exclusion of Sugar from ration shops

†412. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are excluding sugar from the commodities being supplied through ration shops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be its impact on the weaker sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Shiphonning off of foodgrains and sugar from PDS

413. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent survey conducted by the Tata Economic Consultancy Service has revealed that a chunk of foodgrains and sugar quota released for distribution through P.D.S. is shiphoned off and diverted for sale in the open market;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The study conducted by Tata Economic Consultancy Service (TECS) in the year 1997 has estimated the diversion of four commodities viz. wheat, rice, sugar and edible oil from the Public Distribution System.

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.