

Effectiveness of PDS Network

980. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PDS network in India has been successful in achieving its objectives;

(b) what is its outreach in rural as well as urban areas, in terms of percentage;

(c) whether any study has been conducted for reviewing it;

(d) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN):

(a) With a vast network of over 4.5 lakh Fair Price Shops for distribution of essential commodities, viz rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene to about 16 crore families in the country, specially the families living below poverty line, the Public Distribution System (PDS) has played a meaningful role in making these commodities available at affordable prices at household level.

PDS is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Central Government makes available the essential commodities to States and UTs., while the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS including distribution to the consumers in both rural and urban areas is of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) As per reports received from various State Governments/U.Ts., out of total number of 4,55,038 Fair Price Shops, about 3,64,367 (80%) are in rural areas and 90,671 (20%) in urban areas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Import of Sugar

981. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:—

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[10 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether India imported sugar from China and other countries during the recent months, despite glut in Indian market;

(b) if so, the amount of sugar imported since April, 1999, to the detriment of Indian farmers and industry; and

(c) the estimated stock of sugar in India and its production during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Imports of sugar are on Open General License (OGL) since March, 1994 and the individual trader or corporate entities, whether in the private or public sector, are free to import sugar from any country based on their best commercial judgement. As per information in the Foreign Trade Statistics published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, imports of sugar have taken place from various countries including China in the last Financial year as well as during the current financial year. However, there has been no imports of sugar on Government account during this period. Imports of sugar from April, 99 to August, 99, as per published data of DGCI&S, Calcutta, are provisionally estimated at 5.59 lakh tonnes. The production of sugar during the period April, 99 to September, 99 is provisionally estimated at 31.22 lakh tonnes and the closing stocks of sugar as on the close of the sugar season 1998-99 on 30.9.99 are provisionally estimated at 67.23 lakh tonnes.

Import of Sugar and Edible Oils

982. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:—

(a) the total quantum of sugar and edible oils imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of countries from which such imports were made and under what terms and conditions; and