

Increase in Price of Wheat, Rice and Sugar in PDS

986. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have recently increased the prices of wheat, rice and sugar under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the justification thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy provided by Government during the last three years and the amount of subsidy withdrawn recently by Government;

(d) whether Government are aware that increase in prices would adversely affect the people belonging to the weaker sections of society; and

(e) if so, whether Government would consider to reconsider the decision?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of Rice and Wheat for Above Poverty Line (APL) population only, were revised on 29.01.1999, and again for wheat on 1.04.1999 with a view to neutralising the financial burden consequent upon the increase in MSPs of wheat and paddy and also to contain the food subsidy bill to a manageable level.

The retail issue price of sugar was revised from Rs. 11.40 per kg. to Rs. 12.00 per kg. on 15.02.1999.

(c) Subsidy provided by the Government during the last three years has been as under :

(Rupees in crores)

Amount of subsidy on

Year	Foodgrains	Sugar
1996-97	5166	900
1997-98	7500	400
1998-99	8700	400

Due to increase in the CIPs of wheat and rice on 29.01.1999, and wheat on 01.04.1999, the likely reduction in subsidy bill on foodgrains will be around Rs. 2330 crores during 1999-2000.

[10 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) There has not been any increase in the CIPs of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) population since 01.06.1997.

(e) Does not arise.

Condition of Sugar Industry

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of sugar industry in the country, particularly in Northern India, including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, is becoming miserable day by day;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to revive the sugar industry in these States; and

(c) whether Government would formulate any sugar policy, in the light of the condition of sugar industry?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Unethical Trade Practices Against Consumers Rights

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned. Goods once sold will not be taken back, as reported in the Times of India dated the 12th November 1999;

(b) if so, whether a large number of consumer goods manufacturing firms/shopkeepers are indulging in unethical trade practices, by ignoring the rights of consumers.

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any action in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.