

Statement**(SOURCE: DGCI&S-CALCUTTA)**

S. No.	Name of the Country
1.	Pakistan
2.	Brazil
3.	UAE
4.	Thailand
5.	Mexico
6.	France
7.	Germany
8.	People's Rep. of China
9.	Sudan
10.	U.K.
11.	Belgium
12.	Singapore
13.	Japan
14.	Malaysia
15.	Netherlands
16.	Iran
17.	South Africa
18.	China-Taipei
19.	Indonesia
20.	Korea
21.	Nepal
22.	Canada
23.	Myanmar
24.	Phillippines
25.	Saudi Arab
26.	U.S.A.
27.	Australia

Import of Sugar

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

(a) whether India had a surplus carry-over stock of sugar of 55 lakh tonnes from the previous year at the beginning of the current year, with prospects of surplus production of around eight lakh tonnes this year;

(b) if so, whether despite this over-all surplus of sugar this year, 154 lakh tonnes of sugar was imported during the year; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to restrict the imports of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (b) The carry-over stocks of sugar in the country at the beginning of the current sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept.) was 67.23 lakh tonnes (Provisional). The production of sugar during the current sugar season is estimated to be around 160.00 lakh tonnes. A quantity of 8.58 lakh tonnes (Provisional) of sugar was imported by various parties under Open General Licence during the Financial Year 1998-99. During the current Financial Year 1999-2000, upto 15.11.99, a quantity of about 7.75 lakh tonnes (Provisional) of sugar was imported by various parties.

(c) The Government have levied a basic customs duty of 25% plus a surcharge of 10% and a countervailing duty of Rs. 850/- per tonne on imported sugar. Further, with a view to regulating sale of imported sugar in the domestic market, the Government have ammended the Sugar (Control) Order, 1966 and introduced the release mechanism under which all importers of sugar are required to sell their stocks of imported sugar as per the monthly release orders issued by the Directorate of Sugar, Department of Sugar and Edible Oils.

Protection of Rights of Consumers by Courts

984. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware that consumer courts in the country are not in a position to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to consumers;

(b) whether corruption has been the most significant factor in repressing the rights of consumers;

(c) whether Government have not taken any steps to amend the Consumer Protection Act to facilitate reforming of Consumer Courts; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA