

[10 December, 1999]

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(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

(c) the justification of importing such a huge quantity of edible oils and sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) (i) The total quantity of sugar imported under Open General Licence (O.G.L.) during the last three financial years (April to March), i.e., 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 has been 2131 Mts., 3,46,905 Mts. and 8,57,691 Mts., respectively (based on the data published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta).

(ii) The quantity of edible oils imported under OGL during the last three oil years (Nov. to Oct.) i.e., 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 has been 12.83 lakh Mts., 18.93 lakh Mts. and 33.00 lakh Mts. respectively (based on the returns received from importers) upto 1.12.1999.

(b) (i) The names of the countries from which sugar has been imported are given in the enclosed statement (see below as per DGCIS-Calcutta). The import of sugar has been undertaken by various parties under Open General Licence (O.G.L.), after registering their import contracts with Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(ii) Imports of edible oils under O.G.L. are made from the countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Argentina, S. America, Brazil, Singapore, Australia, France and West Germany etc.

(c) (i) As regards import of edible oils, as a supplemental measures, the Government has had to resort to import of edible oils which has been placed on O.G.L. with an import duty at the rate of 16.5%. The import Policy has proved to be consumer-friendly; it has helped in ensuring availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to the consumers.

(ii) As regards import of sugar, no sugar has been imported on Government account. The imports of sugar have been made by various parties under O.G.L., as per their own commercial judgement.

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;