

(c) what is the landed cost of this imported sugar;

(d) whether it is a fact that domestic mills are offering stocks for PDS at prices lower than the landed imported price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e): In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

#### **Fall in Production of Edible Oils**

4167. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of edible oils fell from 250 lakh tonnes in 1996-97 to 237 lakh tonnes in 1997-98;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the shortfall; and

(c) the measures being taken to contain the recent spurt in the price of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The production of edible oilseeds, not edible oils, fell from 249.80 lakh MTs in 1996-97 to 236.89 lakh Mts in 1997-98

(b) Some of the steps taken/being taken to augment the production of oilseeds, and hence of edible oils, to meet the shortfall, are, providing essential assistance through the oil-seeds production programme (OPP) of the Government of India to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments, organising demonstration of advanced technology, assistance for oil palm development,

better incentives to producers through fixation of minimum support price of major oilseeds etc.

(c) The important measures taken by the Government to contain the recent spurt in the price of edible oils are;

(i) Import of all edible oils barring coconut oil, palm kernel oil RBD palm oil and RBD palm stearing continue to be on OGL list.

(ii) Basic import duty of edible oils on OGL list has been reduced from 20% to 10% (the 5% surcharge remaining unchanged).

(iii) STC has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh MT of RBD palmolein for supply through PDS during August-November '98.

(iv) Government has decided to allow import of one million MT of soyabean.

(v) To improve the availability of mustard oil for direct consumption, the use of expeller mustard oil in vanaspati has been reduced from 30% to 10% maximum

#### **Financial Assistance to Sugar Mills from Sugar Development Fund**

4168. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sugar mills which have received financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/expansion during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the names of the mills which could not utilise the assistance, mill-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government against such sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The names of Sugar Mills which have been sanctioned financial assistance from the