

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त लक्ष्य को प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सका; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्य पाल सिंह यादव): (क) चूंकि भारतीय खाद्य निगम/राज्य सरकारों और उनकी एजेंसियों द्वारा केवल उन खाद्यान्नों की ही वसूली की जाती है जो किसानों द्वारा पेशकश किए जाते हैं इसलिए मूल्य समर्थन प्रचालनों के अधीन खाद्यान्नों की वसूली स्वैच्छिक स्वरूप की है। इस प्रकार वसूली का कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया जाता। तथापि रबी विपणन मौसम 1996-97 में कुल 81.83 लाख टन गेहूँ की वसूली की गई थी।

(ख) 1.4.1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार केन्द्रीय पूल में 50.75 लाख टन गेहूँ उपलब्ध था।

(ग) और (घ) उपर्युक्त (क) की दृष्टि में प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Mahajan Committee Report on Sugar

307. **SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:**

SHRI N.R. DASARI:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

SHRI JANARATHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahajan Committee on sugar industry has recommended total decontrol of the sugar pricing system in two years and discontinuation of sugar supply through the PDS after the phase out;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee and Government's decision thereon; and

(c) the new guidelines being laid for ensuring availability of sugar to the poor at subsidised rate in the event of any decontrol of the rate of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The High Powered Committee on Sugar Industry, under the Chairmanship of Shri B.B. Mahajan, submitted its report on 15.4.98. With regard to 'Price Control & PDS', the Committee has made the following recommendations:—

(i) The Committee has recommended complete decontrol of sugar. However, the Committee has further stated that decontrol may be phased over a period of two years. From the beginning of the Sugar Season following the date of announcement of the policy, the percentage of levy sugar may be reduced at 20%, which may be continued at the same rate during the next sugar season; and from the beginning of the subsequent sugar season the levy may be completely abolished.

(ii) Control on releases should continue even after complete decontrol of prices.

(iii) Supply of sugar through PDS may be discontinued when complete decontrol becomes effective. The subsidy at present allowed in supply of sugar through PDS can be distributed among the beneficiaries by adding to the subsidy at present allowed on foodgrains.

The recommendations of the Committee are under examination in Government.

Allowing Import of Duty Free Sugar

308. **SHRI N.R. DASARI:**

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy or allowing import of sugar, free of duty adopted in 1994-95 still continued even though the production of sugar has picked up since then;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the continuance of this import policy and sharp decline in world sugar prices, will adversely affect the indigenous production of sugar; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Import Policy-allowing import of sugar on OGL, free of duty-was introduced in order to provide an 'Import Window' to meet a contingency in which

domestic prices showed a sharp rising trend. The domestic production of sugar in the 1994-95 and 1995-96 Sugar Seasons had been relatively high. Also, the prevailing international and domestic prices of sugar did not result in any significant imports of sugar in 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 Sugar Seasons. The domestic production has been below the country's requirement in the 1996-97 and 1997-98 Sugar Seasons. Moderate imports of sugar have come in during the 1997-98 Sugar Season, which have helped in moderating the rising prices for sugar have been sharply declining, and in order to ensure that, in future, the domestic industry is not adversely affected by cheap imports, with effect from 28.4.98 Ministry of Finance has notified the imposition of an Import duty. The free sale prices of sugar in 1996-97 and 1997-98 Sugar Seasons have maintained a level which yielded the Sugar Industry reasonable profits.

Import of Wheat

309. SHRIN.R. DASARI:

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat to meet the shortfall in the production during the current year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the fall in the production and the details of proposed import of wheat, country-wise alongwith rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that the production of wheat during the current Rabi Season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against the production of 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government has, therefore, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat, of which STC has finalised contracts for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia @US\$ 142.50 PMT FOB during 1998-99.

Procurement and Supply of Wheat and Rice

310. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to sell the wheat and rice procured by FCI within the State from where it is purchased;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to ensure the supply of rice and wheat through PDS in States which are facing foodgrain shortage?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The monthly quotas of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under TPDS are more or less fixed, and are repeated month after month. Any demand of States/UTs. for additional allocation over and above TPDS quotas is considered by Central Government on the basis of past lifting of foodgrains in the State/UTs and availability of foodgrains stocks in the Central Pool. As far as possible, the requests for additional allocations are considered favourably.

विदेश से गेहूँ का आयात

311. श्री राघवजी:

श्री सीताराम केसरी:

क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने 1998 में विभिन्न देशों से गेहूँ आयात करने के सौदे किये हैं, यदि हाँ, तो ऐसे सौदों की मात्रा, दरों तथा निबंधन और शर्तों सहित ऐसे देशों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं;

(ख) गेहूँ के आयात करने के क्या कारण हैं और किस स्तर पर यह निर्णय लिया गया था;

(ग) उक्त गेहूँ कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में किस-किस तारीख को भारत के बंदरगाहों पर पहुँचना तय हुआ है; और