

Food Management Policy

†1854. PROF. RAM DEO .BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received recommendations of Prof. Abhijit Sen Committee;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken by Government on each of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The final report is likely to be submitted shortly.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Fake Ration Cards

†1855. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ' CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in number of fake ration cards in many parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government are taking any action to prevent this malpractice; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) As per the population projections of 2000, there are 18.03 crores households in the country against which the States have reported issue of 19.92 crores ration cards. The excess ration cards include fake ration cards in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) guidelines issued in February, 1997 States/UTs have been asked to actively involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the identification of targeted families and issue of distinctive ration cards to APL and BPL families. States have been instructed to take every care while issuing ration cards against its possible misuse. Guidelines issued for greater involvement of PRIs in functioning of TPDS, issued in June, 1999 emphasize the role of Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas for checking of ration cards for their genuiness. Government of India has also requested States/UTs to take effective steps for elimination of bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards through door to door surveys, periodical checks so that menace of diversion of subsidized foodgrains is effectively controlled. Government has recently notified Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which *inter-alia* provides for periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards.

Selling of Sugar Quota in Open Market

1856. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sugar factories have been allowed to sell up to 10 per cent more than their quota in open market;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what steps have been envisaged for preventing any possible misuse of this facility by sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the requests received from the sugar factories for additional/ advance quota of freesale sugar for clearing cane price dues and storage problem, the Government has allowed them to sell upto 10% of their quarterly quota over and above their normal quota within the quarter.