

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The request of Government of Andhra Pradesh to extend guarantee for creation of an additional capacity of 15 Lakh MTs has been examined in consultation with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and taking into consideration the storage capacity available with different agencies in Andhra Pradesh, the likely procurement and off take, the Government has advised the FCI to give 7 years guarantee to the State Government/State Warehousing Corporation for construction of additional 5 Lakh MTs (covered) storage capacity, in addition to the guarantee for 15 lakh MTs conveyed during June and August 2001.

#### Import of Sugar

1859. SHRI P.N. SIVA:

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the threat of imports of sugar has adversely affected the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, its implications noticed so far on farmers; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no threat of imports of sugar, adversely affecting the domestic sugar sector as the customs' duty on import of sugar has been raised to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000 and the countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per MT, continues to be levied on import of sugar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.