

[6 December, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A quantity of 42124 tonnes edible oils has been allocated to States/UTs during 2000-2001.

(b) to (d) Due to easy availability of edible oils at comfortable prices in the open market, Government of India has decided for the time being not to import edible oils for its distribution through PDS. However, those of the States who have placed their demands have been advised to contact STC to import edible oils on mutually agreed terms without any element of subsidy.

### **Rejection of wheat by Iraq**

1851. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been put to distress with the rejection of another consignment of wheat by Iraq as appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated the 1st November, 2001;

(b) whether it was rejected due to fungi found in the said consignment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The report that appeared in the Navbharat Times in its issue dated the 1st November, 2001 does not depict the correct position. No allocation of wheat has been made by the Food Corporation of India after June, 2001 for the purpose of export to Iraq.