

### Import of sugar and pulses

3086. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to import sugar and pulses to meet the domestic needs in view of increasing cost of such commodities; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government with a view to augment domestic availability of sugar has permitted import of raw sugar by sugar mills under Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS) at zero duty upto 30.09.2009, and under Open General License (OGL) upto 01.08.2009 and import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons at zero customs duty under Open General License (OGL). Import of pulses at zero duty is permitted from June, 2006.

### Increase in prices of essential items

†3087. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of essential items and foodgrains have increased drastically;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is unreasonable difference between the rate of consumer price index and actual rate in the market;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the plans and proposals with Government to remove the unreasonable gap between Government data and actual data; and
- (f) by when these will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir; Prices of some essential commodities have arisen.

(b) The All India average wholesale prices of foodgrains and edible oils are either stable or have declined over the last one year. Prices of sugar increased by 49.56%, pulses such as tur dal by 54.40% and potato by 73.41 % over the past one year.

(c) No, Sir. Consumer Price Index (CPI) is weighted average price increase of large number of commodities in the basket in large number of markets in the country and is based on the market data on retail prices of these commodities. So the price hike of one or few commodities in the specific markets are sometimes not visible in the overall all commodities CPI Numbers, though they are utilized in the compilation of CPI Numbers.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.