

#### Hoarding of foodgrains, pulses, etc.

†1550. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders/private companies have been stocking foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds, jaggery, sugar etc. in various Governmental and Non-Governmental warehouses of the country for the last three years and if so, the details thereof, yearwise and item-wise;

(b) the direction of Government in regard to stocking of the above said commodities and the manner in which they are being complied with;

(c) whether it is a fact that traders/private companies leave their stock with the farmers and circumvent rules by not providing it's account; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The details relating to stocking foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds, jaggery, sugar etc. by traders/private companies in various Governmental and Non-Governmental warehouses of the country are not maintained in the Central Government. However, State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered to fix stock limits in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice, paddy and sugar to enable them to take effective action under the Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and speculators and bring out the hoarded stock of these items into the open market. In respect of sugar, the Government of India have also fixed the following stock/turnover limits:

(i) in Kolkata and extended area -

(a) recognized dealers who import sugar from outside West Bengal – 10,000 quintals;

(b) other recognized dealers – 2000 quintals;

(ii) in other places - 2000 quintals.

No dealer can hold the stock of sugar for a period exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt by him of such stock.

#### Allocation of APL Price to Kerala

1551. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central allotment of APL rice to Kerala has been reduced in March, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps would be taken to restore the APL quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Allocations of food grains for APL category to States and UTs are being made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Allocations of foodgrains for the APL category were made in larger quantities during earlier period to liquidate surplus stocks available in the Central Pool. However, in view of the declining stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the allocation of rice under TPDS to States/UTs, including Kerala for the APL category was rationalized with effect from April, 2007 on the basis of offtake levels during the previous 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The revised allocation of APL rice made in April 2007 was, thus, closer to the level of actual offtake during previous years.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made @ 17056 tons per month on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years i.e. 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, subsequently, on the basis of requests from the state Government and higher availability of rice in the central pool, adhoc/additional/festival allocations of 1.46 lakh tons of rice were made during the year taking to the total rice allocation of the State to 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of 3.07 lakh tons and offtake of 2.94 lakh tons.

For the current year 2009-2010, monthly allocation of 36,056 tons of rice under APL category has been made thereby substantially increasing the annual allocation of rice to 4.33 lakh tons as compared to last year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons. There is an increase in the allocation of APL rice to Kerala during the current year as compared to the previous two years.

#### **Payment of sugarcane price to sugarcane farmers**

†1552. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken concrete steps for immediate payment of sugarcane price to the sugarcane growing farmers in the sugarcane crushing session 2009-10;
- (b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The provisions relating to payment of sugarcane price to sugarcane growers for the sugarcane supplied by them to sugar mills are contained in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 which has been issued in terms of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. These provisions are applicable uniformly to all sugar mills in the country. In order to ensure payment of sugarcane dues to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills, the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 was amended in November, 2000 providing that where any

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