

(c) whether the farmers are diverting from sugarcane cultivation considering it non-profitable; and

(d) if so, the incentives Government plans to give to sugarcane farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 2008-09 (October – September) is estimated to be lower at 150-155 lac tons, as compared to 263 lac tons in previous sugar season 2007-08. The drastic decline in sugar production in the country is mainly due to decrease in area under sugarcane, reduction in cane yield, higher diversion of sugarcane for the manufacture of jaggery (Gur) and Khandsari and fall in recovery rate. The Government has taken the following steps to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and increase sugar production in the country:-

- (i) Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for the sugar season 2009-10 has been increased to Rs. 107.76 per quintal, with an additional premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1% point increased in the recovery above 9.5%. The SMP for the previous sugar season was Rs. 81.18 per quintal, with an additional premium of Rs. 0.90 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9%.
- (ii) A centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is under implementation to increase the production and productivity of sugarcane. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of improved production technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing production of planting materials, efficient use of water, treatment of planting materials etc. The scheme is under implementation in 22 States/Union Territories.
- (iii) Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum are given to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, up-gradation of technology and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.

(c) The Government has received no report to the effect that the farmers diverting from Sugarcane cultivation, considering it non profitable.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Civil supply facilities in Jharkhand**

3717. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large portion of population of Jharkhand is not getting two meals a day;

(b) what provision is made by Government for food security of the rural population of Jharkhand;

(c) what is the percentage of villages having proper civil supply facilities in Jharkhand; and

(d) the details of the plan of Government to provide civil supply facilities in the villages of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The State Government of Jharkhand has informed as follows:

- (i) No report has been received from any district about large population not getting two meals a day.
- (ii) Foodgrains are being provided to targeted families under Antyodaya, Mukhyamantri Khadyan Sahayata Yojana (BPL) and APL under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Regular monitoring is being done.
- (iii) All the villages of Jharkhand are covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- (iv) For proper and timely distribution of foodgrains, the State Government has taken a decision for door step delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops.

**Complaints in consumer courts of Maharashtra**

3718. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by consumer courts in Maharashtra during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during that period, year-wise; and

(c) the total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The total number of complaints received by Consumer Fora in Maharashtra during last three years, year-wise as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Fora	Total
2006	3183	10942	14125
2007	4708	11780	16488
2008	4673	16956	21629

(b) The number of cases disposed off during the period, year-wise as informed by NCDRC, is as follows: