

- (c) No.
- (d) In view of reply to (c) above, question does not arise.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) In view of reply to (e) above, question does not arise.

Special quota of sugar for Kerala

*110. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has asked for special quota of sugar from the Union Government to bring down the spiraling price of sugar in the open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government has not received any request from the Government of Kerala for special quota of sugar for the purpose of bringing down the price of sugar in the open market. However, the Government of Kerala had requested for additional allocation of 5000 M.Ts of levy sugar in the month of February, 2008 for Attukkal Ponkala festival which was fully agreed to. The State Government again requested for 7100 M.Ts of sugar in the month of August, 2008 as Onam gift to the State which was partially acceded to and 3500 M.Ts of sugar was allotted as additional festival quota. This was in addition to their normal annual festival quota of 3600 M.Ts of levy sugar.

The State Government further requested for additional allocation of 10000 M.Ts of sugar in November, 2008 for Bakrid and Christmas festivals. Due to low availability of levy sugar in 2008-09 sugar season on account of trends of lower production in the season, the same was not acceded to. The State Government has again requested in June, 2009 for additional allocation of 14000 M.Ts of sugar for festival seasons in Kerala. It is not possible for the Central Government to agree to the request for additional allocation of festival quota due to lower sugar production in 2008-09 sugar season which limits the overall availability of levy sugar.

Package to SMEs to cope with economic recession

*111. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:†

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small and medium enterprises of the country are also hit by international recession;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the industries of this sector have been provided facilities under economic package so as to protect them from the effects of recession; and

(d) if so, the total assistance made available to this sector till May, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The international economic recession has adversely affected the export market of Indian industry, including the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In particular, sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, etc. have been mainly affected.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the impact of global recession on MSMEs, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided a refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector. In addition, the Government, the RBI and the Public Sector Banks have taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs which, *inter alia*, include: (i) extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent for credit facility up to Rs.5 lakh; (iii) an advisory to Central Public Sector Enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs; (iv) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; (v) grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vi) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent.

Out of the refinance facility of Rs.7,000 crore, Rs.6,269 crore was drawn by SIDBI up to 31st March 2009 (latest available), of which Rs.4,336 crore was channelised through public sector banks, Rs.420 crore through State Financial Corporations (SFCs) and Rs.1,513 crore under SIDBI's own direct credit scheme.

Allocation for Unani System

*112. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made and the expenditure incurred on unani colleges, hospitals and dispensaries during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(b) the allocations made for the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase allocation for unani system?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Details of funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred during the last three years for the Unani System of Medicine under different schemes of the Department of AYUSH are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)