

- (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