

Sale of levy sugar in open market

956. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate of Sugar *vide* its order No. SC-11/2008-09/FS/O dated 30th September, 2009 allowed sale of 72,684.3 metric tonnes of levy sugar in open market; 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 had allowed sale of 72,684.3 metric tonnes of un-lifted levy sugar of 2006-2007 and earlier sugar seasons as non-levy sugar in open market during the month of October, 2009.

Seizure of rice meant for PDS

957. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 2112 tonnes of PDS rice was seized at Tuticorin port recently when it was to be exported to Maldives by a private exporter;

(b) if so, whether this kind of loot was found in other parts of the country also;

(c) which are the States largely instrumental to this kind of fraud; and

(d) whether there will be a fool-proof system to prevent the malpractices, misuse and mismanagement of PDS goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the rice being exported to Maldives by a private company was not PDS rice. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of

Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The details of the raids conducted, persons arrested, persons prosecuted and convicted and value of goods confiscated for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during the year 2009 are indicated in the Statement (See below).

To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for:—

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities.

Statement

Action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the year-2009 -Informaton received from States/UTs upto 31.12.2009

Sl. No.	State/Uts	No. of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated in Rs. lakh	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7873	43	Nil	1	233.31	December
2.	Assam	2382	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
4.	Bihar	17	8	Nil	Nil	1.69	December
5.	Chhattisgarh	751	36	90	66	858.27	December
6.	Delhi	93	98	76	Nil	Nil	December
7.	Gujarat	28025	30	89	Nil	528.31	December
8.	Goa	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
9.	Haryana	107	8	1	Nil	0.82	December*
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14946	3	2	Nil	6.28	July
11.	Jammu and Kashmir						Not Reported
12.	Jharkhand						Not Reported
13.	Karnataka	1659	137	9	3	24.58	December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Kerala	48829	21	2	Nil	121.47	December***
15.	Madhya Pradesh						Not Reported
16.	Maharashtra	1782	2292	1389	Nil	13965.45	December
17.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November**
18.	Meghalaya	8	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	November
19.	Mizoram	366	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
20.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December\$
21.	Orissa	23890	7	56	Nil	3.75	November
22.	Punjab	122	54	34	26	464.52	December
23.	Rajasthan	281	3	62	Nil	36.89	March
24.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil	September
25.	Tamil Nadu	16404	4775	1471	7	623.25	December
26.	Tripura	6	2	2	Nil	0.34	November
27.	Uttaranchal						Not Reported
28.	Uttar Pradesh	39684	1023	1491	Nil	1929.48	December
29.	West Bengal	134	90	2	Nil	56.19	November
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	208	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
31.	Chandigarh	7	7	Nil	Nil	7.93	September
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	2	Nil	Nil	0.22	December
33.	Daman and Diu						Not Reported
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
35.	Pondicherry	512	63	68	15	15.53	December
TOTAL:		188119	8707	4848	118	18878.28	

* — Except — August and September

** — Except August and October

*** — Except October

\$ — Except November

Updated as on 18.2.2010

Shortage of sugar

958. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual cause of hike of sugar price in our country;