

### **Shortage of sugar**

4652. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to import one million tonne of ready-to-eat white sugar through State-owned trading companies for sale to local consumers at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, whether this decision was taken amid growing concerns that India's sugar production may not fully recover even in the next season beginning October;

(c) if so, whether Indian sugar output and consumption in 2009-10 has been estimated 14.5 million tonnes and 22.7 million tonnes respectively; and

(d) if so, the estimated shortage of sugar during 2010-11 and the steps Government considers to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The revised estimates of sugar production and consumption of sugar in 2009-10 sugar season (October — September) are over 180 lac tons and about 225 lac tonnes respectively.

(d) It is too early to estimate sugar production during 2010-11 sugar season. However, the preliminary indications are that there unlikely to be any shortage of sugar in 2010-11 sugar season. As such, the question of taking steps to meet the shortage situation in 2010-11 sugar season does not arise at this stage.

### **Rejection of draft National Food Security Bill**

4653. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Right to Food Campaign rejected the proposed draft of the National Food Security Bill that promise 25 kg. of foodgrains a month at Rs. 3 per kg. to each family living below poverty line and urged Prime Minister to come up with a bill that covers every adult resident of the country under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether this suggestion has been considered by the Prime Minister; and

(c) if so, to what extent that has been accepted and by when the proposed legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to