

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh placed restrictions in November, 2009 on transportation of imported raw sugar in the State in the wake of farmers' agitation in the State. As soon as the farmers' agitation died down, the Central Government, at various levels, requested Government of Uttar Pradesh to remove such restrictions. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has since removed the restrictions on movement of imported raw sugar in the State vide their letter dated 19.2.2010 addressed to the Railway Board. Ministry of Shipping has reported that as on 05.03.2010, about 4.87 lac ton of raw sugar imported by different sugar mills/merchant importers including those of U.P. sugar mills is lying in godowns outside Kandla port and as on 8.3.2010 about 3.15 lac tons of raw sugar imported by U.P. Sugar mills is lying at Mundra port.

1735. The Question was cancelled.

Legislation on right to food

1736. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will deliver its promise of legislating on the Right to Food;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to draft the Bill;
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to insure participation of larger civil societies and other stakeholder in the process of drafting the Bill; and
- (d) by when the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) As announced by the Hon'ble President of India in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act.

The Government has consulted State/Union Territory Governments, Planning Commission, concerned Central Ministries, experts and other stakeholders. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), constituted for the purpose, has examined various aspects of the proposed law and given certain directions, based on which a draft National Food Security Bill is under preparation for consideration of the EGoM. Thereafter, the draft Bill would be put on the website of the Department of Food & Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.