

Wastage of imported wheat and pulses

1737. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of imported wheat and pulses could not be distributed and got wasted during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action being taken against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. In order to meet shortfall in Central Pool stock, Government imported 72.23 lakh tonnes of wheat during 2006-07 & 2007-08. There was no import of wheat during 2008-09 on Government Account. Out of this only 6.2 MT of wheat was reported by FCI to be damaged during transit through Railways.

There was no import of pulses on Government Account.

(c) Assessment delivery for the damaged wheat has been granted by the Railways and necessary railway claim has been lodged.

Fall in price of sugar

†1738. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the price of sugar has come down slightly due to the steps taken by Government recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken; and
- (c) the hurdles felt in taking these steps earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Central Government has recently taken the following measures:

- (i) Sale and dispatch of non-levy sugar quota on weekly basis from February, 2010.
- (ii) Reduction in the stockholding limit of bulk consumers from 15 days to 10 days with effect from 20.02.2010.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As a result of these measures and other relevant factors influencing the domestic prices of sugar, the sugar prices have declined as shown below:-

Date	Ex-mill prices of S-30 grade of sugar.Retail price in Delhi		
	(In Rs. Per quintal)		(In Rs. per kg.)
	Maharashtra	U.P.	Delhi
15.01.2010	3650-3670	3890-3940	47.00
01.02.2010	3825-3845	4090-4240	43.00
15.02.2010	3390-3440	3650-3690	43.00
02.03.2010	3050-3150	3440-3470	41.00
08.03.2010	2950-3100	3290-3340	38.00

(c) The Central Government takes appropriate decisions at appropriate time keeping in view the interest of various stake holders viz., sugarcane farmers, industry and consumers.

Quality control of mineral water

†1739. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

- (a) the details of companies involved in the manufacture and sale of bottled/mineral water;
- (b) whether Government has set up any regulatory body to ensure the quality control of bottled water;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has received any complaints regarding manufacture and sale of sub-standard mineral water;
- (e) if so, the details thereof in respect of each year of the last three years and the current year along with action taken in this regard, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (f) the number of persons held accountable in such cases and the action taken against them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The number of companies (licensees of Bureau of Indian Standards) engaged in manufacture of Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water are 2395 and 16 respectively.

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