

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken in details to provide central subsidy for Market Intervention Operation (MIO) scheme as submitted in the above letter;
- (d) whether steps will be taken in affirmative to the above proposal; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The State Govt has requested the Central Government to formulate a scheme for ensuring availability of essential items, to the Govt. of Kerala/Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation for distribution to the public at affordable prices. The State Govt has stated that during 2008-09, the State Govt have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 105 crore towards subsidy for the distribution of the subsidized items under the Market Intervention Operation (MIO) Scheme, besides Rs.40 crore in the current year. The State Govt. has requested to provide Rs.150 crore as subsidy to the Govt. of Kerala for subsidizing the non PDS essential commodities such as pulses, spices & edible oils.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no existing scheme under which financial assistance can be given as Central Subsidy for Market Intervention Operation Scheme to the State Government of Kerala. A scheme for giving financial assistance to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments for non-formal Public Distribution System through State Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumers Marketing Federations has been formulated for approval. The scheme aims at strengthening the capacity of the State Agencies i.e. State Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumers Marketing Federations through augmentation of their financial resources with one time financial assistance from the Government of India and thereby enabling them to intervene effectively in the market by augmenting availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices in time of scarcity and/or spurt in prices.

Sugar import by Uttar Pradesh sugar mill owners

1734. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 9 lakh tonnes of raw sugar imported by Uttar Pradesh sugar mills owners is stuck up at the ports as the State Government disallowed the entry of imported raw sugar for processing and sale despite repeated requests from the Central Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government's move to guard the interests of the cane growers is unconvincing as the sugarcane availability is insufficient to operate the plants for the full session; and

(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.