

(b) In the Chief Ministers Conference held on 6th February, 2010 it was emphasized that there is also need for the State Governments to revisit the various taxes imposed on sugar. For instance, a few State Governments like that of Gujarat, Karnataka Delhi, West Bengal and Bihar have already abolished VAT on imported sugar. Recently Chhattisgarh has abolished the entry tax and other states were urged to consider the same.

(c) The retail prices of rice, wheat, Groundnut oil, vanaspati had either remained stable or declined while the prices of Sugar, pulses such as Gram dal, Turdal, Urad dal, edible oil such as Mustard oil, Potato, Onion had declined in 4 Metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta and Chennai over the last 3 months.

Foodgrain allocation to APL families

2347. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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

(a) whether Government has a proposal to increase the foodgrains allocation for Above Poverty Line (APL) families; 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) Allocation of foodgrains under Above Poverty Line (APL) category, under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), is made based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 10 kg. and 35 kg. per Family per month in different States/UTs. There is no proposal to increase the allocation of foodgrains for the APL category.

Price of edible oils

2348. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of edible oils is continuously increasing in last three years;

(b) the details of prices of edible oil in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009;

(c) whether Government has taken any measures to control the prices; and

(d) 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 average wholesale prices of major edible oils in 2008, mustard oil, groundnut oil, soyabean oil, sunflower oil and RBD palmolein have increased by 28.4%, 0.34%, 21.4%, 19% and 5.6% respectively as compared to prices in 2007. However, the prices of these edible oils, mustard oil, groundnut oil,