

(c) the context and circumstances under which the decision has been taken to allow such export of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Commission of the European Communities *vide* its Regulation dated 25th September, 2009 allocated a duty-free quota of 10,000 MTs of sugar to India for export to European Union (EU). The EU is a vast market with great potential for export of Indian agricultural products. Not discharging/availing this quota could result in reduction by the European Countries of import quota from India.

Keeping this in mind M/s Indian Sugar Exim Corporation (ISEC) was allowed to export 10,000 MTs of sugar to EU subject to the condition that it will import an equivalent quantity of sugar in 2009-10 sugar season. This condition was imposed to ensure that there was no net export of sugar from the country.

DGFT issued the necessary public notice on 15th February, 2010 allocating 10,000 MTs of white sugar for export to EU for the fiscal year 2009-10 (October, 2009 to September, 2010). Subsequently, the allocation was withdrawn *vide* DGFT's public notice dated 23rd February, 2010. Accordingly, no export of sugar has taken place.

Sugar quota for Odisha

*414. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Odisha has asked for special quota of sugar from the Union Government to bring down the spiralling prices of sugar in the open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government has not received any specific request from the Government of Odisha for special quota of sugar from the Central Government in the recent past. However, during the conference of Chief Minister's held on 6th February, 2010, the Chief Minister of Odisha had requested, *inter-alia*, that allocation should also be made to the State for Above Poverty Line (APL) families at subsidised rates.

In February, 2001, the Central Government restructured supply of levy sugar for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) and restricted its supply to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families throughout the country except the North Eastern States, Hill States and Island territories where universal coverage was allowed. This was done with a view to better targeting of PDS beneficiaries.

Special Package for setting up colleges

*415. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is urgent need for providing colleges in certain areas in Kashmir; and