

Import of sugar

3881. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of sugar imported by various agencies/companies during the year 2009-10;
- (b) the average price of imported sugar during this period; and
- (c) the present situation of sugar stocks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Central Government did not import sugar on its account during the year 2009-10. It is the sugar mills or public sector undertakings or merchant importers/exporters who have undertaken import of sugar as per their commercial prudence. As per trade sources, 26.60 lac tons of raw sugar and 7.96 lac tons of white sugar was imported during the current sugar season 2009-10 (Upto 19.04.2010). The international sugar prices of import have varied from time to time. As such, it is not possible to indicate the average price of imported sugar during this period.

(c) Sugar stocks are being held by the sugar mills/merchant importers/exporters and private traders. As such, it is not possible to indicate the present situation of sugar stocks in the country.

Food security cover to every family

†3882. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a high level committee is contemplating upon the draft of National Food Security Act to ensure food security in the country;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof and whether it is also a fact that only households living Below Poverty Line are being considered to be covered under this Act; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is not the foremost responsibility of the Government to cover each and every family under food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the enactment of the National Food Security Act which, *inter alia*, envisages entitling every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out. Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalised, it would be placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.