

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Export of Sugar

† 2683, SHRI ABANI ROY:

SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether *Government* have decided to export sugar, keeping in view the record production and storage of sugar;

(b) if so, the total quantity of sugar for which target has been fixed by Government to export during the current financial year alongwith the details of countries to whom it would be exported and at what cost;

(c) whether Government have also contemplated to decontrol the sugar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of domestically produced sugar. The exports can be carried out by the sugar mills either directly or through the exporters and they are free to export sugar to any country based on their commercial judgement. Government itself is not undertaking export of sugar. As such, it is not possible for the Government to indicate as to which countries and at what prices export of sugar would take place.

(c) to (e) In one of its recommendations, the Mahajan Committee has recommended complete decontrol of sugar and discontinuation of supply of sugar in the Public Distribution System (PDS). This Ministry has since examined the said recommendation of

† Original notice of the question was received *in Hindi*.

the Committee and the final decision of the Government will be announced shortly.

Non-procurement of Rice from North Balasore by FCI

2684. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not procured rice from North Balasore in Orissa;

(b) whether the farmers in that traditional rice bowl areas of Orissa are facing problems going for distress sell due to FCI stopped procurement; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to rescue the farmers and start the procurement of rice from North Balasore and other rice growing areas of undivided Balasore district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

During the current Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000, Food Corporation of India has already procured 1,73,050 quintals of rice (upto 7-8-2000), from Balasore district of Orissa, which is much more than the quantity of 20,210 quintals procured last year. This is also much higher than the target of one lakh quintals fixed by the State Government. Procurement for the current Season is still *on*,

Roll Back of Price Hike of PDS items for North-Eastern States

2685. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the North-Eastern State's Chief Ministers regarding roll back