

Demand to remove government control on sugar

†1378. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the demand to remove Government control from sugar industry is being made by sugar mills;
- (b) if so, the details of demands of sugar mills;
- (c) whether farmer would be left at the mercy of sugar mill owners in case these demands are accepted as it is; and
- (d) if so, whether farmer's representatives would be taken into confidence before decontrolling the sugar industry, if so, the plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands include relating sugarcane price to realization from sugar and direct realization from by-products on the basis of a suitable formula; minimum price protection of sugarcane to come from Government during years of low sugar realization; procurement of PDS sugar from the open market; removal of sugar from the purview of Essential Commodities Act; decontrol of sugar; dispensing with the release mechanism and stock holding limits on trade or bulk consumers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government will ensure that farmers' interest is suitably protected. Government will take into account all aspects including availability, price situation, impact on cane growers as well as consumers of sugar, development of sugar industry and fulfilment of future growth in demand, etc. before taking any decision on decontrol.

Food security to all

†1379. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that it is being contemplated to provide food security to all citizens in the country;

(b) if so, whether in the course of discussion it has been decided to distribute 35 kg. foodgrains at Rs. 3 per kg. under food security in 2000 poorest blocks of the country so far;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether any time-frame has been set in this regard to put the system in place; 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) As announced by the President in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, the Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, *inter-alia*, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out by an EGoM constituted to examine various aspects of the proposed law. Based on directions of EGoM, the draft Bill would be prepared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the same would be put on the website of the Department for public scrutiny and comments.

Shortcomings in PDS

†1380. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that success of food security related scheme depends on the working of present public distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several Government appointed committees have exposed the loopholes in the Present Public Distribution System to Government over the years; and

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