

New sugar mills in Gujarat

3387. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Gujarat to set up new sugar mills at Surat, Mehsana, Bharuch and Rajkot districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and present status of the said proposals; and
- (c) the steps taken to expedite the process of setting up of new sugar mills in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to set up sugar mills at Surat, Mehsana, Bharuch and Rajkot districts.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Universal Food Security

3388. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is actively considering a proposal placed in the National Advisory Council (NAC) meeting that Universal Food Security be implemented irrespective of BPL/APL people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has invited opinion of various State Governments regarding this;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the likely time-frame by which this Universal Food Security project will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Advisory Council (NAC) has not made any recommendation to the Government.

(b) to (e) In view of the above, do not arise.

Prices of sugar made products

†3389. 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 price of sugar has been decreased now by 25 per cent to 30 per cent in comparison to last months in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of sugar-made products, which have seen price hike owing to increase in the price of sugar, have still not been decreased;

(d) if so, the name of such products; and

(e) whether any effort is being made by Government to control their prices by intervening in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The price of sugar in the domestic market have now decreased in comparison to last few months responding to the measures taken by Government to augment domestic availability of sugar and moderate sugar prices. The retail price of sugar in Delhi has decreased from peak level of Rs. 47 per kg. on 15.01.2010 to Rs. 31 per kg. *i.e.* decrease of 34%.

(c) to (e) The Central Government does not control the prices of sugar-made products in the open market. As such, the question of controlling prices of such products does not arise.

Role of retailer in price increase of pulses

†3390. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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 there is a huge difference in the prices of pulses between the retail market and factory rate prices;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government has investigated the matter;

(c) if so, the details of the said investigation report; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the profit share of seller in retail market plays a vital role in the price hike of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The details of the retail and wholesale prices of pulses along with their variation in 4 Metros *viz.* Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are given in the Statement (See below).

A Conference of Chief Ministers was held on 6th February, 2010 to discuss the issues relating to prices of essential commodities. The conference recommended the constitution of a Standing Core Group of State Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers to deliberate on and recommend measures to contain price rise. Accordingly, a Standing Core Group constituted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.