

(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.

met on 8th April, 2010 in which it was decided *inter alia*, that a Working Group on Consumer Affairs chaired by Chief Minister, Gujarat, with Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chief Minister Tamil Nadu as members be constituted to suggest strategies/plan of action *inter alia* for:

- (i) Increasing efficiency of distribution channels from farm to consumers.
- (ii) Reducing intermediation costs and for reducing gap between farm gate and retail prices.

(d) Wholesale/retail prices are largely determined by the market forces. Different layers in the distribution channel and lack of market integration lead to the entry of intermediaries and contribute to the high prices paid by the consumer. There are other factors which affect the prices spread, such as: (i) transportation and handling costs (ii) Wholesalers Margin (iii) packaging and other marketing expenses at retail, (iv) retailers mark-up, (v) various taxes levied by different State Government e.g. octroi duty, (vi) the location of the market and the nature of the consumer group covered by that market.

Statement

*Details of variation in wholesale and retail prices of
Essential Commodities in Metros*

(as on 20.8.10)

| Commodity/Centre | Retail Prices (Rs./Kg.) | Wholesale Prices (Rs./Kg.) | Variation |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Gram Dal | | | |
| Chennai | 34 | 30 | 4 |
| Delhi | 35 | 27 | 8 |
| Kolkata | 32 | 27.50 | 4.5 |
| Mumbai | 34 | 28.75 | 5.25 |
| Tur Dal | | | |
| Chennai | 66.50 | 62 | 4.50 |
| Delhi | 71 | 61.25 | 9.75 |
| Kolkata | 58 | 50 | 8 |
| Mumbai | 64 | 53.25 | 10.75 |
| Urad Dal | | | |
| Chennai | 78 | 72 | 6 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|----|-------|------|
| Delhi | 73 | 63.75 | 9.25 |
| Kolkata | 68 | 61.80 | 6.20 |
| Mumbai | 73 | 71.25 | 1.75 |
| Moong Dal | | | |
| Chennai | 79 | 68 | 11 |
| Delhi | 83 | 72 | 11 |
| Kolkata | 75 | 66 | 9 |
| Mumbai | 80 | 71.25 | 8.75 |
| Masoor Dal | | | |
| Chennai | 48 | 44 | 4 |
| Delhi | 54 | 44.75 | 0.25 |
| Kolkata | 48 | 40.50 | 7.50 |
| Mumbai | 50 | 42.75 | 7.25 |

Source: State Civil Supplies Department NR — Not Reported

NT — Not Traded

Revival of sick sugar mills

3391. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE:

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

(a) the quantum of money lying in Sugar Development Fund and for what purpose(s) the same is utilized;

(b) the details of funds disbursed to sick sugar mills for their revival in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the action taken by Government for rehabilitation and modernization of sugar mills and development of sugarcane areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As on 31.07.2010, an amount of Rs. 136.1139 crore was available in the Sugar Development Fund. The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 provides for the following purposes for which the Fund shall be applied:—

(i) Making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof; including to a potentially viable sugar undertaking.