

Suggestion to increase subsidy to Operative Committee

†594. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is contemplating on any scheme in collaboration with State Governments to check the price rise of essential commodities in the country;

(b) whether Government has received any proposal or suggestion from State Governments to increase the subsidy to be given to Operative Committee; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) A conference of Chief Minister was held on 6th February 2010 wherein it was recognized that the prime concern of the Government was the insulation of the poor and the vulnerable from adverse price movements, the responsibility of which had to be shared by the Government at the Centre and in the States through a coordinated approach. The conference recommended the constitution of a Standing Core Group of State Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers to deliberate on and recommended measures to contain price rise. Accordingly, a Standing Core Group has been set up under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The first meeting of the Core Group was held on 8th April 2010 in which it was decided that three Working Groups will be constituted; of which the group on Consumer Affairs will be chaired by Chief Minister, Gujarat, with Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chief Minister Tamil Nadu as member 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.
 - (iii) State intervention for retailing essential commodities at reasonable prices.
 - (iv) Enforcement of statutory provisions to improve availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Food security

†595. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is really concerned about the food security of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.