

into levy sugar. The prices have thereafter shown declining trend in the month of February, 2005.

(c) M/s SUCDEN India Pvt. Ltd., a 100 per cent wholly-owned subsidiary unit of M/s Sucres ET Denres SA of France, has been granted permission for trading of sugar by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(d) No, Sir.

#### **Committee for New Consumer Policy**

501. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

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

(a) whether the department of Consumer Affairs has constituted a Committee for formulating the New Consumer Policy;

(b) if so, how many members are there in this panel;

(c) whether any time-frame has been set for submission of the recommendations;

(d) if so, by what time the committee is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the main objectives which will form part of the New Consumer Policy?

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

(b) The Committee has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Principal Secretary, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, Government of Tamil Nadu and consists of 9 members consisting of Secretary in charge of Consumer Affairs in State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and representatives of Voluntary Consumer Organisations etc.

[4 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) As per terms of reference of the Committee, the Committee will submit the draft policy within three months.

(d) The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

(e) The broad terms of reference of the Committee are to examine all related issues in accordance with the guidelines for consumer protection adopted by the United Nations in 1985.

### **Posts of Veterinary Officers and Surgeons in Zoos**

502. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that posts of veterinary officers and surgeons in the zoos across the country have been lying vacant for several years;

(b) if so, the number of such posts to be filled up zoo-wise and the reasons for not filling these posts so far;

(c) whether Government consider the availability of veterinary doctors as an important requirement for maintaining the health and hygiene of zoo animals, especially the endangered ones; and

(d) if so, the action taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annexed statement indicates zoo-wise number of veterinary officers in position as well as number of posts which are to be filled up as per norms laid down under Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 (as amended) (*See* below). The matter pertaining to filling up of posts falls under the domain of the concerned State Governments/Municipal Corporations/controlling authorities of the Zoos.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Zoo Authority has been emphasizing the State Forest Departments/Municipal Corporations, the controlling authorities of most of the Zoos, to deploy veterinary officers as per requirement of the Recognition of Zoo Rules in the Zoos under their administrative control. The Central Zoo Authority has also suggested to the State Governments to deploy the requisite technical manpower and