

(c) whether FIRs have also been filed against officers involved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The implementation of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the nearest Principal Distribution Centre of FCI in each State/UT, the identification of BPL families, issue of ration cards and issue of licences to the fair price shops and distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UTs. The TPDS functions through a vast network and caters to people living in all parts of the country. As such the possibility of some malpractices cannot be ruled out. Government have received occasionally complaints of various natures in this respect and these have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UTs for appropriate action. The details of complaints regarding corruption etc. against PDS officials and fair price dealers are not maintained by the Central Government

Displaying contents on packaged food items

† 499. SHRI MOTILAL VORA Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make it mandatory to display the information regarding ingredients and pesticides used in food items on sealed packets;

(b) if so, by when necessary orders would be issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASUMUDDIN): (a) to (c) As per Rule 32(b) of the Prevention of Food Adulteration

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[4 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

Rule, 1955 every package of food shall carry a label indicating the name of ingredients used in the product in descending order of their composition by weight or volume as the case may be.

At present, there is no proposal under consideration for displaying limit of pesticides on the label of food items under PFA Rules, 1955.

Sugar prices

500. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI RAVULACHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether the retail sugar prices have recorded a steep rise from Rs. 17.00 to Rs. 22.00 a Kg. in the recent months;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor and steps being taken to stabilise the prices at the earliest;

(c) whether Government have recently permitted a UK based multi-national SUCDEN to buy and sell sugar in bulk in Indian domestic market and to import raw sugar for re-export after value addition; and

(d) if so, whether such a step would tend to destabilise the Indian domestic market at retail level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) In early January, 2005, the retail prices of sugar in the four principal markets were in the range of Rs. 19.00 to Rs. 21.00 per Kg. This increase in sugar prices had been on account of unwarranted speculation as well as holding back of the released quota by some sugar mills. Government announced enhancement in non-levy sugar quota by 4 lakh M.Ts, increase in the period of fulfillment of export obligation in case of raw sugar imports under Advance License from 24 months to 36 months and conversion of unsold non-levy sugar quota by sugar mills