

(b) No funds have so far been disbursed to sick sugar mills for their revival in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as no applications have been received in this regard.

(c) The Sugar Development Fund provides for giving soft loans to the sugar factories for their rehabilitation/modernisation and also for development of sugarcane in their respective areas. Since inception and upto 31.10.2010, an amount of Rs.2179.43 crore and Rs.731.70 crore has been disbursed to the sugar factories for their modernization and sugarcane development respectively.

#### **Price-rise of garlic**

†1114. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that prices of garlic, a medicinal herb, is rising sharply during the past few months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to some experts, the prices of garlic are likely to rise further 25 per cent by the end of current calendar year; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that price of this essential commodity is not increased further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Garlic prices have increased after June/July because of higher losses by softening of bulbs due to high temperature at the time of harvesting. Prices increased till September and currently are largely stable in recent months.

(b) Garlic prices are not expected to increase further. The stored garlic will be available till end of March/April and fresh crop harvesting is also expected to start from January 2011 onwards in some of the areas. Therefore the prices from January end are expected to decline.

(c) Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) Government is providing assistance to garlic growers in the country, through NHRDF and State Governments. As per the prescribed norms under National Horticulture Mission (NHM), NHRDF is providing assistance to the garlic growers under Technology Dissemination Through Demonstration (TDTD) and Vegetable Seed Production (VSP) programmes. Apart from NHRDF different State Government are also taking NHM programme for

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

their States, by which a large number of garlic growers are getting assistance under different programmes. These measures will ultimately help in increasing the production of garlic and stabilizing their prices in the country.

#### **PDS scam in Arunachal Pradesh**

1115. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some persons have been arrested in PDS scam in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the findings of the investigation into this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

#### **Price rise**

†1116. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of decline in the rate of price-rise during current year as compared to last year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that despite decline in Government data the prices of fruits, vegetables, cement etc. have increased forty per cent more;
- (c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to contain price-rise; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The year on year rate of WPI inflation (rate of price rise) for all commodities during the current year rose from 8.56% in January, 2010 to 10.16% in May 2010 after which the rate decelerated and stood at 8.58% in October, 2010. The details are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) Inflation rate of fruits remained high during the period and stood at 15.84% in October 2010. The vegetable WPI inflation rate which was negative during April 2010 to August 2010 rose thereafter and stood at 3.68% in October 2010. Cement inflation rate was modest through out and stood at 1.13% in October 2010.

(c) and (d) The details of the steps taken by Government to contain price-rise of essential commodities are given in Statement-II.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.