

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) No decision to export sugar under Open General Licence has been taken by the Government. After the actual figures/dependable estimates of production of sugar during the current sugar season become available, the matter will be reviewed taking into consideration indigenous requirement of sugar. The Government has agreed to the request from the industry regarding re-export of sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS)/Advance Licence Scheme (ALS) as well as export of raw and white/refined sugar lying at ports.

Food insecurity in the country

1916. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report on the 'State of Food Insecurity in Urban India' has noted that in some States, the food insecurity has worsened during recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any plan to improve the food security situation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) World Food Programme (WFP) and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) have jointly released a Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Urban India in September, 2010. The Report is based on 11 indicators to capture access and absorption dimensions of food security. These indicators are given in the Statement (*See* below). The Report has attempted an analysis pertaining to urban areas of 18 States on the basis of these indicators and their variants for the period 1998-2000 and 2004-06. The Report has concluded that there has been improvement between 1998-2000 and 2004-2006 in the food security situation in urban India as measured by any of the six variants of the composite index.

(c) and (d) In order to address the issue of food security in the country, Government implements various schemes/programmes in partnership with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. There are adequate stocks of rice, wheat and coarse cereals available in the country. Government has adequate buffer stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool for allocations under these schemes/programmes. Government allocates foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families every month. Allocations of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in

the Central Pool. Government is also implementing food based other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Annapoorna Scheme, Village Grain Bank Scheme, etc.

Further, the Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act to entitle by law every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of subsidized foodgrains each month.

Statement

Indicators referred in the report on the State of Food Insecurity in Urban India

- Percentage of urban population consuming less than 1890 kcal per consumer unit per day
- Number per 1000 of urban male workers not “regularly employed”
- Number per 1000 of urban female workers not “regularly employed”
- Percentage of urban households without access to safe drinking water
- Percentage of urban households without access to toilets
- Percentage of ever-married women (15-49 years) with any anaemia
- Percentage of ever-married women (15-49 years) with Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED)
- Percentage of children (6-35 months) with any anaemia
- Percentage of children (6-35 months) who are stunted
- Percentage of children (6-35 months) who are underweight for age
- Percentage of children (6-35 months) who are wasting.

Damage of foodgrains

1917. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains damaged in FCI godowns during the last three years and its value;
- (b) the manner in which the damaged foodgrains was disposed of by Government;
- (c) the action taken to protect foodgrains from damaging;
- (d) the quantum of foodgrains lying in open as on date; and
- (e) the action taken on Supreme Court Order to distribute foodgrains free of cost to persons living below poverty line?