

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, it is well known that in private godowns the damage is much more. In private godowns the damage is estimated somewhere at 5 per cent., but in Government godowns, as I have already said, in 1963 it works out to .0069.

SUGAR QUOTA TO STATES

*438. **SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the quota of sugar allowed at present to each State for distribution; and

(b) the criterion for fixing the quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House giving the monthly quotas of individual States and Union Territories.

(b) The quotas of sugar were fixed generally after taking into consideration the availability of sugar and the average offtake of sugar from factories by individual States during the last six months of the previous control period which ended in September 1961, when the supply position of sugar was easy.

STATEMENT

Monthly quota of Sugar fixed for each State

State	Monthly Quota (Tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	8,000
Assam	6,000
Bihar	10,000
Gujarat	21,000
Jammu & Kashmir	1,500
Kerala	6,000
Madhya Pradesh	12,000
Madras	11,000

Maharashtra	30,000
Mysore	9,000
Orissa	4,000
Punjab	14,000
Rajasthan	6,000
Uttar Pradesh	20,000
West Bengal	21,000
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	75
Dadra Nagar Haveli	23
Delhi	6,500
Goa, Diu and Daman	802
Himachal Pradesh	523
Laccadive Islands	15
Manipur	150
Nagaland	131
N.E.F.A.	300
Pondicherry	400
Tripura	261
TOTAL	1,88,680

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: According to the statement, Punjab is getting 14,000 tonnes and West Bengal is getting 21,000 tonnes while U.P. which has got the largest population is getting only 20,000 tonnes. May I know, Sir, why there is so much difference in the supply of quota for U.P. which has got the largest population?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I have already mentioned the basis, that the quotas were fixed on the basis of the average offtake of sugar during the last six months of the previous control period which ended in September 1961, along with other factors. But with regard to U.P., I may say that U.P. has got khandsari sugar which has not come into calculation. Then it is a major jaggery, gur producing area. Although the population of Uttar Pradesh is, of course, the largest—it comes to 6 to 7 crores of people—even then the average offtake during the last six months of 1961 was only 20,000 tonnes. But,

I agree, Sir, that it is not sufficient for their requirements in spite of the gur and khandsari that they produce. And then we have to work within availability. So although we recognise the need, it is not possible to enhance the quantity.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know, Sir, whether the U.P. Government has requested the Central Government for further quota in order to keep to the demand?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have given to U.P. 1500 tonnes more for December, January and February. We want to maintain that. But it is doubtful whether we will be able to maintain even that additional allocation.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Sir, most of the States are now taking to rationing of sugar and everybody who was not taking sugar previously is not taking it. May I know, Sir, if the Government will take population also as the basis for quota?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That happens whenever anything has to be controlled. It is not a fact that every State has taken to rationing. Of course, in Punjab, U.P., Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala and Goa sugar is being distributed on the basis of identity cards with quantitative restrictions. In Kerala, the quantities which can be drawn are related also to income groups. As the hon. Member has stated, on the basis of population U.P. should certainly get more, but as I have already indicated, U.P. has got jaggery, gur, as well as sufficient khandsari. And there is also a ban on the movement of jaggery so that the requirements of U.P. would be met. And, as I said, there is khandsari sugar also.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that U.P. being the producer of gur, consumes

much more of gur in addition to sugar?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Yes, I have already said that.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, on what basis is the quota distributed to the States? Is it on the basis of demand?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: My answer to the question contains the basis. This is the average offtake of sugar from factories by individual States during the last six months of the previous control period ending September 1961. We have not proceeded on any arbitrary basis.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether any special quota was given to U.P. during the festivals of Id and Holi? If not, why not?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Every State has been given 10 per cent. extra of the total monthly quota for festivals like Janamashtami, Dussehra, Diwali, Holi and Id.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Sir, the quota that has been granted to the different States and what percentage of population is being served by the quotas?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I have already said that it is not granted on the basis of population.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if any instructions are issued to the State Governments regarding the distribution of this sugar? Is there any uniformity maintained throughout the States?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Yes, instructions have been issued to these States. Based on the quota, they have to sub-allocate the quota between the various districts. District-wise they have

to nominate the dealers. The dealers have to be licensed and their margin of 2.68 per quintal plus the transport charges have been fixed. That is the maximum that can be charged. We have also said that it is desirable to distribute it through fair price shops. I might submit that there are as many as 4,036 fair price shops now functioning in the various States, and 1,203 wholesale co-operatives and about 10,000 retail co-operatives handling sugar in the various States.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know, Sir, the reason for fixing a quota of 1,500 tonnes of sugar for the State of Jammu and Kashmir when the State of Jammu and Kashmir has got a good number of population as also it attracts 80,000 tourists. The quota of this State is only 1,500 tonnes while the quota for other States is 6,600, 12,000, 13,000 tonnes and so on.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, from Jammu and Kashmir State there has not been such a persistent demand as from other States because the State gets a satisfactory quantity. In fact I might say, Sir, that if there is any such demand it would be difficult to meet it. This quota is enough for the requirements of Jammu and Kashmir State.

श्री आर० के० भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि राजस्थान में पापुलेशन के हिसाब से कोटा दिया जाता है ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Rajasthan has a quota of 6,000 tons. It has been given as a special case, another 1,000 tons in the last three months.

*439. [Transferred to the 11th March, 1964]

BUFFER STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

*440. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a buffer stock of 6 million tons of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) It is proposed to build up gradually a buffer stock of 4 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of rice, making arrangements simultaneously for proper storage and turning over of stocks.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know if this morning's newspaper report about import, under P.L. 480, of 5 million tons of wheat for buffer stock is correct and, if so, when it is expected to arrive?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It may be simply a surmise. We are stepping up our imports of wheat under P.L. 480. Even the present imports come to about 4 to 4½ lakh tons. Our idea is to increase it to 5 lakh tons every month so that the offtake may be more or less met by current imports so that the reserve stocks may not be affected.

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY: What is the percentage of imports in relation to the local procurement?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Our idea is to build up buffer stock both by local procurement as well as by imports. As far as wheat is concerned, there is not much scope for local procurement. We produce round about 11 million tons and we import on an average about 3½ to 4 million tons a year. Last year we distributed about 4 million or to be exact 3.8 million tons. So there is not much scope for indigenous procurement as far as wheat is concerned. As far as rice is concerned, the position is that there are limitations for imports because there is world shortage of rice, and also we have foreign exchange difficulties. So