

(a) whether it is a fact that an assessment of the country's sugar production in the sugar year, 2011-12 has been made;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar production for the entire year;

(c) the quantity of sugar assessed for consumption during 2010-11; and

(d) the quantity in percentage by which the assessed consumption is in excess of that for 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the first advance estimates of sugarcane production released by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in September, 2011, the production of sugar in the country is provisionally estimated at about 246 lac tons for the current sugar season 2011-12.

(c) The Central Government has released a quantity of 207.69 lac tons of sugar for domestic consumption during the sugar season 2010-11.

(d) There was not much difference in the quantity of sugar released for domestic consumption during 2009-10 sugar season as the quantity released stood at 208.78 lac tons.

Required level of procurement under NFSB

2050. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) what is the procurement level of foodgrains required to cover the population under the proposed National Food Security Bill (NFSB), as suggested by Government;

(b) by when this level of procurement would be completed; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to speed up the procurement process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) It is estimated that 610 lakh tonnes of wheat & rice would be required to cover beneficiaries under the proposed National Food Security Bill

(NFSB). 341.97 lakh tonnes of rice and 281.44 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured from 2010-11 crop, aggregating to 623.41 lakh tonnes.

(c) The following steps have been taken to speed up the procurement process:

- (i) States are encouraged to adopt Decentralised Procurement (DCP) system to maximize procurement and to ensure better reach of MSP to farmers. So far 5 States have adopted DCP system for wheat and 9 States/UTs have adopted DCP system for rice.
- (ii) Interactions are held with State Food Secretaries from time to time to monitor procurement operations and to speed up the procurement process.
- (iii) Instructions have been issued to open procurement centres at the locations convenient to farmers.
- (iv) In order to extend the reach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations to marginal/small farmers, commission at the rate of 2.5% of MSP in respect of paddy and 2% of MSP in respect of wheat has been allowed to Cooperative Societies/Self Help Groups.

Export of sugar

2051. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allowed export of sugar although there is less availability of sugar in the domestic market;
- (b) if so, whether it would not affect the prices of sugar in domestic market; and
- (c) the details thereof and the reason for allowing export of sugar in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Taking into account the opening stock and likely sugar production, the Government has allowed export of upto 10 lakh tons of sugar during sugar season 2011-12 under Open General Licence.