

(a) whether the draft National Food Security Bill seeks to provide legal entitlement to subsidized foodgrains to 75 per cent of the country's rural population and 50 per cent to urban population of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the views of each State Government and the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The draft National Food Security Bill provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population, with at least 46% belonging to priority households and upto 50% of the urban population, with at least 28% belonging to priority households under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Priority households are proposed to be provided seven kg. of foodgrains per person per month at prices not exceeding Rs. 3/2/1 per kg. for rice/wheat/coarse grains respectively. General households will be entitled to at least three kg. of foodgrains per person per month at prices not exceeding 50% of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat and coarse grains and not exceeding 50% of derived MSP for rice. Comments/suggestions on various provisions of the draft Bill have been received from the States/UTs, Central Ministries/Departments and individuals/organizations on issues like coverage, identification of beneficiaries, PDS reforms among others. Based on the Comments/suggestions received, Draft National Food Security Bill has been suitably revised.

Export of Sugar

†2823.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given permission to export 10 lakh tonnes of sugar on the basis of the estimate made prior to its production in the country;

(b) if so, by when this decision was taken and the estimate of sugar production for the entire year;

(c) whether, according to the sources of Indian Sugar Mills Association, there has been indication of decrease in production after the said estimate was made; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the percentage of sugar mills which have started production, as per their capacity in the country till November, 2011?

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, likely sugar production and domestic demand, the Government has allowed export of upto 10 lakh tons of sugar during sugar season 2011-12 under Open General Licence.

(b) The Government took the decision to allow export of 10 lakh tons of sugar on 22nd November, 2011. Based on 1st Advance Estimates of sugarcane production received from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, the sugar production is provisionally estimated to be about 246 lakh tons for the sugar season 2011-12.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per information received from States, out of 667 installed sugar mills, 398 sugar mills, i.e. about 60% have commenced production of sugar till 30th November, 2011.

Committees on food inflation

†2824. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted committees under the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Gujarat and the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission in order to get suggestions regarding food price inflation;

(b) if so, the date of the constitution of these committees and the duration within which they were urged to submit their reports to Government;

(c) the dates on which these committees have submitted their reports with their suggestions to Government; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.