

(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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the action taken by Government, so far, on the basis of these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "Core Group of Central Ministers and State Chief Ministers on Prices of Essential Commodities" in their meeting held on April 8th, 2010 and presided over by the Prime Minister, had decided to constitute three Working Groups viz.;

- (i) Working Group on Agriculture Production.
- (ii) Working Group on Consumer Affairs.
- (iii) Working Group on Food & Public Distribution.

Working Groups were asked to submit their Reports in two months. However, extension of time for submission of report was given from time to time. Constitution and Terms of Reference of the three Working Groups read as under:

**1. Working Group on Agriculture Production comprised of:**

Chief Minister, Haryana - Chair

Chief Minister, Punjab

Chief Minister, West Bengal

Chief Minister, Bihar

The Working Group on Agriculture Production deliberated on and recommended measures for increasing agricultural production and productivity including long term policies for sustained agricultural growth.

**2. Working Group on Consumer Affairs comprised of:**

Chief Minister, Gujarat - Chair

Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

The Working Group on Consumer Affairs deliberated on and recommended measures for reducing the gap between farm gate and retail prices and better implementation of and amendment(s) to Essential Commodities Act.

3. **Working Group on Food and Public Distribution comprised of:**

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission - Chair

Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Chief Minister, Assam

Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister

The Working Group on Food and Public Distribution deliberated on and recommended measures for better and effective delivery of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of society and augmentation of warehouses and storage capacity including cold chain.

(c) and (d) The Working Group on Agriculture Production submitted its report to the Prime Minister on 15th December, 2010.

The Chairman of the Working Group on Consumer Affairs submitted the Report of the Working Group on 2nd March, 2011.

The Working Group on Food and Public Distribution submitted its final report on 5th October, 2011.

The three Reports have been submitted for a decision of the Government.

**Enforcement mechanism against corporate frauds**

2825. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has strengthened the enforcement mechanism against corporate frauds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of corporate frauds which came to the notice of Government during the last two years; and

(d) to what extent the investigative wing of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office has succeeded in checking such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI M.VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Strengthening of enforcement mechanism to deal with corporate frauds is an evolving process as aspects of fraud touch upon many jurisdictions. Based on the experience gained over the years, the existing provisions regarding inspection, enquiry and investigation are proposed to be strengthened