

17. Ensuring that all FCI owned godowns are constructed and maintained on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.
18. Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.

#### **Production of sugar in Assam**

4062. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey of production of sugar in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of sugar mills in the State, in private and public sector, separately; and
- (d) the number of sugar mills in public as well as in private sectors which are closed and the total number of sugar mills declared sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There are 03 sugar mills in the State, out of which 02 sugar mills are in cooperative sector and 01 sugar mill is in public sector.
- (d) The State Government has informed that both the cooperative sugar mills have been liquidated. The third sugar mill in the public sector was leased out to one private party but it has also stopped its operation. No sugar mill in the State has been declared sick.

#### **Shortcomings in NFSB**

4063. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that eminent development economists of the country have opened that the present National Food Security Bill (NFSB) has some very serious shortcomings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that they have sent a communication to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Some eminent personalities in their comments on draft National Food Security Bill inter alia suggested universal Public Distribution System (PDS) with well defined exclusion criteria. Some also suggested provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities; and maternity benefits to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

(c) and (d) A group of research scholars, including Shri Jean Dreze, University of Allahabad, in a letter dated 21.07.2011 to the Prime Minister, has supported the case for a 'near universal PDS', whereby all households are entitled to food subsidies unless they meet well-defined exclusion criteria. They have also suggested that the National Food Security Act should include strongest possible safeguards against a hasty transition from food entitlements to cash transfers.

The National Food Security Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, and thereafter referred to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for examination. Further action on the Bill can be taken only after the report of the Committee is received.

#### **Misleading advertisements**

4064. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted an inter ministerial group to look into the issue of misleading advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to bring a law to prevent misleading advertisements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Department of Consumer Affairs is holding several workshops and