

Storage of sugar

1288. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of sugar produced during the last year;
- (b) the quantum of sugar stacked in FCI godowns;
- (c) the quantum of sugar lying in the open because of paucity of godowns; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the sugar laying in the open?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Production of Sugar during last sugar season 2010-11 (October-September) was 243.50 lac tons (Provisional).

(b) A quantity of 0.261 lakh MTs of sugar was available with FCI as on 01.03.2012, out of which 0.08 lakh MTs of sugar was under transit.

(c) Sugar is not stored in the open storage.

(d) Does not arise.

Black marketing in TPDS

1289. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

(a) whether a Conference of Food Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of the States and UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 in Delhi on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Storage;

(b) the details of discussions held and the decision taken to check black marketing of PDS items and the steps taken to create more storing space to check damaging of foodgrains; and

(c) the quantum of foodgrains stored in the open by FCI and how much of it was damaged during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A two day Conference on Targeted Public Distribution System and Storage with Food and Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 at New Delhi.

The Conference discussed regarding expeditious action to be taken by States towards Computerisation of PDS as a mean to bring transparency in the functioning of PDS and reduce the incidences of leakages/diversion, black-marketing, etc. of PDS