

subject to this All India coverage, State-wise distribution shall be determined by the Central Government, from time to time. With regard to the suggestion for coverage of entire rural population and at least 95% of urban population of Uttar Pradesh, it is stated that the proposed coverage under TPDS in the Bill is based on current trends in production and procurement of foodgrains.

(d) and (e) As stated in reply to (c) above, the Bill provides that State-wise distribution of the coverage under TPDS shall be determined by the Central Government from time to time. The Bill is presently under consideration of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

Online details of sugar production

1738. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken penal action against 53 sugar mills for not furnishing online details about sugar production, dispatches and stock position for 2011-12 season to the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether furnishing the details online would help this sector for better management; 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) Under the relevant provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Central Government vide circular letter dated 16th April, 2012 directed all the sugar mills to furnish online details about sugar production, dispatches and stocks etc. in the prescribed format Proforma-II from the sugar season, 2011-12 onwards. However, 52 sugar mills did not furnish the requisite information online upto August, 2012. Therefore, the District Magistrates concerned were requested to initiate penal action against these 52 sugar mills under relevant provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The details are given in Statement. Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No: 1730 part (d) of (f). Out of these 52 sugar mills, 23 sugar mills have subsequently furnished the requisite information and the concerned authorities have been requested for withholding the penal action against them. The details are given in Statement. Refer to Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No: 1730 part (d) to (f).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The computerised web-based data collection system provides comprehensive data base on sugar production, dispatches and available stock of levy and non-levy sugar from the sugar mills which helps Government in taking informed policy decisions for better management of sugar sector.

Gap between demand and supply of edible oils

1739. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country;

(b) since when this gap continues; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to meet the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) At present there is about 50% gap between the demand and supply of edible oils in the country.

(b) The gap between demand and supply of edible oils has existed over two decades but this gap has shown increasing trend since 1992-93.

(c) Various steps taken by Government to meet the demand of edible oils in the country are as follows:-

- (i) The import duty on crude and refined edible oils has been reduced to zero per cent and 7.5% respectively.
- (ii) The Government has allowed State Governments to impose stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds, upto 30.09.2013.
- (iii) Export of edible oils has been banned except coconut oil (through Cochin Port) and certain oils produced from minor forest produce and edible oils in small packs upto 5 kg. subject to limit of 20,000 tonnes per year,
- (iv) The Government have launched a Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils to States/UTs since 2008 at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg. The Scheme has been extended in subsequent years and further extended upto 30.09.2013.