

Production of ethanol

†*228. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar mills in the country have decided to reduce the production of ethanol during 2012-13 sugarcane crushing season in comparison to 2011-12 season;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the quantity of ethanol produced in the country during 2010-11 and 2011-12;

(c) the target of production set for 2012-13; and

(d) whether, along with ethanol, the targets of production for other subsidiary products, including sugar by sugar mills have also been reduced and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir. The Central Government is not aware that sugar mills in country have decided to reduce the ethanol production.

(b) and (c) Production of alcohol or ethanol is linked to the production of molasses which is a by-product during production of sugar. Production of molasses depends upon the quantity of sugarcane crushed and sugar produced. According to industry sources, the estimated quantity of alcohol produced during 2010-11 and 2011-12 has been about 2630 million litres and 3070 million litres respectively and the estimated production of alcohol during 2012-13 sugar season is likely to be about 2590 million litres.

(d) Sugar production in the current sugar season is estimated to be around 230 lakh tones as against the production of about 263 lakh tones in the last season. Accordingly, the lower production of sugar would also result in reduced production of alcohol and other by-products.

Dumping by mining companies outside lease area

*229. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Justice M.B. Shah Commission Report indicted a number of mining companies for dumping of overburden on lands outside their lease area causing serious damage to such lands; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.