

Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. It is reported to be in progress in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura.

Decontrol of sugar

662. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to decontrol sugar is under active consideration of Government; and

(b) 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) The Central Government had constituted a committee headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister, to comprehensively look into all the issues related to deregulation of the sugar sector. The committee submitted its report to the Government on 5th October, 2012. The Committee has, *inter-alia*, recommended removal of the levy sugar obligation and dispensing with the regulated release mechanism on non-levy sugar; Rationalisation of sugarcane pricing; Abolition of cane area reservation system and bonding; Doing away with the minimum distance norms as states discontinue cane area reservation; liberalisation of sugar trade; market determination of prices of by-products with no earmarked end use allocations; and taking out sugar from the purview of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987. The recommendations of the Committee are under active consideration of the Government.

Price of PDS sugar

663. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH :

SHRI ALOK TIWARI :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the price of PDS sugar;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is aware that rise in price of PDS sugar would aggravate the miseries of poor people who are already ridden by price rise;
- (e) if so, whether Government would review its decision to increase the price of PDS sugar;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (g) Do not arise in view of the position explained in reply to part (a) of the question above.

Concerns at Food Ministers Meeting

664. SHRI ALOK TIWARI :
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH :
SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

- (a) whether Government has convened a meeting of the Food and Civil Supply Ministers of States to discuss the National Food Security Bill on 13th February, 2013;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several States including Uttar Pradesh have raised serious concern about the Bill;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the response of Government thereto;