

as per their requirements. The State Governments procure, store and distribute foodgrains under TPDS and other welfare schemes. Procured quantities in excess of State's requirement is taken in the Central Pool for distribution elsewhere, while shortfall is met from the Central Pool. The Central Government monitors the quality of foodgrains procured under the scheme and reviews the arrangements made to ensure that the procurement operations are carried on smoothly.

#### **Fake consumer items**

3035. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that markets in the country are full of fake consumer items, particularly, electrical items, cold drinks, foreign liquor etc. which is harmful for consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Sir, no such data is available with Department of Revenue — Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). To protect consumers from harmful effects, random samples of food items are being drawn by the State Food Safety Officers as the implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 rests with the State/UT Governments. The samples drawn are sent to the laboratories recognized by FSSAI for analysis. Penal action is initiated if the sample does not conform to the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

#### **Implementation of Food Security Act**

3036. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government is planning to take to ensure satisfactory implementation of the National Food Security Act; and
- (b) the efforts being made to secure co-ordination with State Governments for implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The

National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. It *inter-alia* provides for a period not exceeding 365 days after the commencement of the Act to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. Foodgrains under the Act has been allocated so far to 10 States/UTs, as per the progress in identification of beneficiaries reported by them. Rest of the States are at different levels of preparedness to implement the Act. These States are being persuaded to complete identification of households and other preparatory work within the stipulated time and begin implementation of the Act.

The entitlements under the Act to subsidized foodgrains and nutritional support to women and children are to be delivered through TPDS, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) schemes, which are already under implementation through State/Union Territory Governments, in accordance with guidelines of respective schemes. A pilot scheme for maternity benefit *viz.* Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana is also under implementation in select districts of the country.

**Financial crisis faced by farmers growing sugarcane**

3037. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the acute financial crisis being faced by farmers growing sugarcane, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, due to non-payment of remunerative prices as well as arrears and also the discontinuance of the purchase of sugarcane during the current crushing season following the decision of sugar mill owners to close down their mills; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There was some delay in the crushing operations in the current sugar season over the issue of sugarcane price fixed by the States which is higher than Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) and financial problem of sugar mills. The issue has since been resolved and mills all over the country including in Uttar Pradesh are operating to their capacities.

The Central Government on 03.1.2014 has notified a scheme envisaging a financial package in the form of interest free loans worth Rs. 6600 crores as additional working