

for modernization/expansion of mills and promising refunds thereof with interest.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from the Government of Maharashtra.

(e) The Government of Maharashtra have stated that they have issued instructions to the respective cooperative sugar mills to repay the amount of deposits along with interest when it is due for repayment.

Issue of new BPL Cards *vis-a-vis* Supreme Court order

329. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step so far, to deal with the situation arising out of the interim order of the Supreme Court to maintain status *quo* with regard to issuance of new BPL cards for the public distribution system;

(b) whether BPL quotas are derived from BPL census or from Planning Commission estimates of poverty; and

(c) the manner in which Government intend to arrive at such quotas in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The directions of Supreme Court are with regard to the BPL Census, 2002 conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development, in all the rural areas of the country for implementation of various programmes of the Ministry. These directions therefore, do not prevent the State Governments to issue ration cards under TPDS as per the PDS(Control) Order, 2001 issued by the Government of India, in order to include the eligible households and exclude ineligible households.

(b) and (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the allocation of foodgrains to all the State Governments/UT Administrations is made on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 and the population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 subject to the number of BPL families identified and number of distinctive ration cards issued to them, whichever is less, at the

[25 November, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

prescribed scale of issue. There is no proposal to alter this criteria at present.

Subsidy to sugar mills

330. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to give Rs. 525 crores subsidy to ailing sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ailing sugar mills which will be benefited by this subsidy;

(d) to what extent it will help to improve our GDP; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) In pursuance to the Finance Minister's Budget Speech for 2005-06 wherein it was announced that the sugar factories that have been operational in 2002-2003 sugar season will be assisted to restructure, a Committee was set up in NABARD to prepare a package of assistance for the sugar industry. Consequently, Government of India has decided that all Cooperative Sugar Mills in the country which have term loans outstanding as on 31.3.2005, and which are commercially viable and have adequate operational surplus to repay the said term loans will be categorized as falling under two Categories, *i.e.* Category A and Category B. Accordingly, the term loans will be restructured/rescheduled to enable repayment within five years (for Category A) or within 15 years (for Category B). The rate of interest on the restructured loans will be reduced to 10% per annum, with effect from 1st April, 2005, irrespective of the original contractual rate. Government of India will provide interest subvention on the restructured loan, which is estimated at Rs. 525 crores. All the Cooperative Sugar Mills in the country, irrespective of the State in which they are located can avail of the above financial assistance as per the terms and conditions of the package. The package will financially strengthen the Cooperative Sugar Mills which in turn will improve their capacity