

(c) the price including subsidy at which rice and wheat are proposed to be sold to exporters for export; and

(d) the total quantum of wheat and rice fixed for export by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The EXIM Policy allows export of foodgrains without any quantitative restrictions. In order to promote and facilitate exports from the Central pool stocks, only certain Post-delivery expenses to cover upgrading, fumigation, handling, etc. are allowed to the exporters. An Inter-Ministerial High Level Committee of the FCI makes suitable recommendations in this regard from time to time.

Strengthening PDS

106. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Common Minimum Programme of Government proposes to strengthen the Public Distribution System and extend it to the poorest blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the main proposals that have been worked out; and

(c) by what time these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to strengthen the PDS and to make wheat and rice available to the poorest of the poor families, it is proposed to expand the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) shortly by including another 50 lakh families who are at the risk of hunger.

Payments for sugarcane

†107. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugarcane crushed in sugar mills in various States of the country during 2003-04 together with the total prices thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.