

to adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black marketing.

For steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise of essential food items are refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 2319, Part (b) and (c).

(c) and (d) No Madam. No such proposal is under consideration.

Shortage of edible oils

2337. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether current high market price of edible oils, particularly mustard oil, is due to its shortage; and

(b) whether this shortage is manipulated, if so, the corrective measures taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) The less and untimely rain has affected production of mustard seed thereby low production of mustard oil which caused rise in its market price.

(b) No, Sir.

Non-supply of ration on time

†2338. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living below poverty line do not get monthly ration of food on time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for their not getting food ration on time; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to open new shops if people get their food ration late due to shortage of Public Distribution System shops and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.