THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As on 31.12.2015, out of 235 installed sugar factories are in Maharashtra, 169 are in cooperative and 66 in private sector. State Government of Maharashtra has informed that 31 sugar factories are profit making as per the audited balance sheets of Financial Year 2014-15. Two sugar factories in private sector are declared as sick units by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(c) The Central Government fixes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane having regard to the factors mentioned in Clause 3(1) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. The FRP so fixed is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders. FRP of sugarcane is uniform throughout the country and linked to recovery rate.

Malpractices in printed MRP

400. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are large number of products and commodities in the market where the actual 94 sale price is far less than the MRP printed on the product thereby circumventing the requirement of MRP;

(b) if so, the preventive action available under the law or otherwise to check such malpractices; and

(c) the action Government contemplates to prevent such practices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Sir, prices of the products and commodities are determined by the market forces. It is not feasible for the Government to fix the cost price and sale price of such commodities which are sold through open market competition. Therefore, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of such products sold in the country are determined by the manufactures/packers/ importers themselves.

(b) and (c) The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 provide that commodities in packaged form can not be sold at a price higher than MRP, in order to protect the interest of consumers. Monitoring whether the commodities are being sold at more than MRP is done by the enforcement authorities of the State Governments. The penalty provisions are made under section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violations of the provisions of Act and Rules.