

S.No. Period	Rate
e) Crop Year 2002-2003	6225/-
f) Crop Year 2003-2004	6525/-
16. From 01.07.2004 (Valid upto 30.09.2004) and Earlier Year	
a) Crop Year 1998-1999	5700/-
b) Crop Year 1999-2000	6100/-
c) Crop Year 2000-2001	6300/-
d) Crop Year 2001-2002	6400/-
e) Crop Year 2002-2003	6500/-
f) Crop Year 2003-2004	7000/-

Gap between production and consumption of sugar

†1824. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 108 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 2004 and state:

(a) the suggestions given by sugar industry and the decision taken thereon;

(b) the details of gap between production and consumption of sugar at present and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fill the gap between production and consumption of sugar and by when its outcome will be known?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The suggestions of the sugar industry included, *inter alia*, expeditious settlement of subsidy claims, reduction in the rate of interest on SDF loans and taking up matters of credit, cogeneration of power and production of ethanol with the concerned Ministries. Government have decided to reduce interest rates on SDF loans and have taken up matters of credit, cogeneration and ethanol with the concerned Ministries. Settlement of subsidy claims has been expedited.

(b) and (c) Drought and pest infestation have affected sugar production in 2003-04 season. However, the estimated consumption of sugar of 180 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 sugar season will be met by the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

estimated carryover stock of 116 lakh tonnes as on 1st October 2003 and the estimated production of 138 lakh tonnes in the 2003-04 season.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

†1825. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at present, foodgrains are being supplied to a total of 15 million families in the country under 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana',

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the estimated number of BPL families in the country is 65.2 millions;

(d) if so, Government's assessment in this regard; and

(e) the criteria selected by Government for bringing families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for 10 million families from amongst the BPL category. The scheme has been expanded in the year 2003 by adding another 5 million BPL families with special focus on widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support and all Primitive Tribal Groups. With effect from 1st August, 2004, the AAY has been further expanded by another 5 million BPL families (thus increasing its coverage to 20 million) by including *inter alia*, all households at the risk of hunger. Allocation of food grains under the scheme is being released to the States/ UTs by the Government on the basis of issue of distinctive AAY Ration Cards to the identified Antyodaya families. On the basis at present food grains are being supplied by the Government for 12.63 million families under the AAY.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.