

(c) and (d) The Grahak Suvidha Kendras (GSKs) have already been closed. Six Zonal Consumer Helplines have been set up at the places where the GSKs had been set up *i.e.* at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Jaipur, Guwahati and Patna to cater to the needs of consumers in regional languages.

Sugar crisis in domestic market

2482. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is anticipating a sugar crisis in the domestic market as a result of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to remove the initial problems of traders and anticipated crisis of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import and export duty on sugar

2483. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to scrap the export duty on sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government also plans to increase the import duty on sugar; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this measure will be helpful in protecting the interests of the domestic sugar producers/farmers and the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Government will take necessary policy measures including scrapping of export duty on sugar, if necessary, at the appropriate time depending upon the domestic availability/demand of sugar.

(c) and (d) The Government has increased import duty on sugar from 50% to 100% on 06.02.2018 to restrict the import of sugar. It has arrested the downward trend of domestic sugar prices and stabilised it, thereby, improving the liquidity of sugar mills