

prices of sugar in the open market as a result of its higher production and availability?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The production of sugar during 1994-95 season was 145.85 lakh tonnes (Provisional) against the total installed production capacity of 122.1970 lakh tonnes as on 30.9.1995 showing a production of 23.653 lakh tonnes in excess of the installed capacity.

(c) The production of sugar during 1994-95 sugar season was higher in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Goa than their installed sugar production capacities as on 30.9.1995.

(d) and (e) No further import of sugar is contemplated on Government Account at present.

(f) The free-sale sugar release mechanism is being regulated in a judicious manner in order to maintain the prices of sugar in the open market at reasonable level to the consumer as well as the producers to enable them to pay remunerative cane prices to the farmers.

Unused Drugs

1395. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether large quantity of high value drugs are lying unused in the various Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to see these medicines are properly used in time?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No such report has been received in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Quota of Sugar and Kerosene

1396. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States have not received their quota of sugar and kerosene specially for festivals in time during 1995-96;

(b) whether the Union Government have received complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure timely supply of these items?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d):

SUGAR : Government release about 1.00 lakh tonnes of sugar per annum as festival quota (in addition to the normal monthly quota), which is allocated to the States/ Union Territories in the month(s) of their choice in proportion to their monthly levy quota. Lifting and distribution of levy sugar is the responsibility of State Government/Union Territories Administrations.

KEROSENE : The Central Government makes bulk allocation of SKO to the States/UTs and SKO is released by the Oil Companies in time in accordance with the allocations made. Requests for additional allocation of kerosene for festival and contingencies like floods etc., whenever received, are considered and sanctioned on merits.

[English]

Consumer Grievances

1397. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up or to direct the State Governments to set up an ombudsman in each State to look into the consumers grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Consumer Courts set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are serving the purpose for which they are set up. They are functioning as per the procedure laid down in the Act and the Rules framed thereunder.

Irrigation Projects

1398. SHRI INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going major and medium irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh alongwith the time schedule for their completion;

(b) the details of the projects which are lagging behind their original schedule;

(c) the cost escalation as a result thereof;

(d) the reasons therefor; and