

1	2	3
16.	Mizoram	01
17.	Nagaland	01
18.	Orissa	08
19.	Punjab	19
20.	Rajasthan	06
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	20
23.	Tripura	02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	41
25.	West Bengal	20
26.	Chandigarh	01
27.	Delhi	08
28.	Pondicherry	01
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[English]

Import of Sugar Under OGL

20. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had allowed duty free import of sugar under open general licence and the importers are under no obligation to either furnish the details in respect of contracted price, country of origin and sale of imported sugar to the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing the duty free import of sugar under OGL when there is no shortage of sugar in the country;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to ask the importers to either sell the sugar at reasonable profits or to stop the facility under OGL; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) . Government, with a view to augment the availability of sugar in the domestic market and to keep the open market prices of sugar under check, decided to allow import of sugar with zero duty, so as to enable the importers to sell their sugar in the domestic market at competitive prices. It was for the importers to sell the sugar imported by them in the open market as per market considerations and their own commercial judgement.

[Translation]

Ecologically Affected States

21. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which are ecologically most affected in the country; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to check it during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :

(a) The ecologically most affected States in the country are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The various steps taken by the Government for checking degradation of forests are :

(i) Financial Assistance is given to the State Governments and voluntary agencies for afforestation, protection of forests and restoration of ecological balance.

(ii) Institution of 'Van Mukhiya' has been created at Panchayat level to have effective communication between village communities and forest officials in respect of plantations, management, protection and benefit sharing aspects.

(iii) States have been asked to consider to ban felling of green trees above 1000 mtrs. altitude and ecologically sensitive areas.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been created to protect endangered flora and fauna.

(v) Studies are sponsored in environmentally sensitive areas to prepare action plan to conserve, protect and preserve the environment as well as to draw up sustainable development plans.

Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

22. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh have sought permission for expansion and issuance of licences for setting up of some new sugar mills in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in issuance of licences for setting up of new sugar mills;

(d) whether new sugar mills have started functioning in Nawabganj, Miranganj and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) . Yes Sir. A Statement showing the details of the proposals