

inferior quality in the country specially in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Mumbai, West Bengal & Southern States;

(b) if so the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the timely flow of controlled items to the Fair Price Shops in future ?

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) to (c) . Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Government/UT Administrations. Central Government makes bulk allocation of key essential commodities viz. rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, soft/CIL coke and kerosene oil States and Union Territories (UTS) for distribution through PDS. All operational aspects of distribution of PDS commodities to the consumers are matters under the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central government however, issues stocks of rice and wheat conforming to prescribed quality standards. Instruction have been issued to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to issue stocks free from infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards. States/UTs are allowed to inspect all stocks before accepting the same and have the right to reject stocks not conforming to prescribed quality standards. State Governments/UTs have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act etc. to take action against the persons indulging in various types of malpractices. The Central Government, from time to time, reviews the implementation of PDS with the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government also extends financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and purchase of vans to supplement their efforts to improve the distribution infrastructure.

[Translation]

Act for Employment

73. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to enact any law providing employment in the Government Departments on the principle of one family one child; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The issue requires wider consultation and consideration.

[English]

Incentive for Sugar Production

74. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are encouraging production of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is vast scope for sugar production in the country;

(d) what is the future of this industry; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to boost up the production of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) . The Government have taken the following steps to boost sugar production in the country.

1. The statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for 1995-96 season has been raised to Rs. 42.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%.
2. An advance announcement of SMP for 1996-97 season has also been made at Rs. 45.90 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%.
3. Loans are also being provided from the Sugar Development Fund at concessional rates of interest to sugar factories for undertaking cane development schemes in their areas of operation.

(c) to (e) . Due to favourable agro climatic conditions sugarcane is grown in the majority of states of the country. However, only 54.4% of cane produced during 1994-95 was utilised by the Sugar Industry for manufacture of sugar. Thus there is still a large quantity of sugarcane which is not used for the manufacture of sugar.

[Translation]

III-Effect of Pollution

75. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative ill-effect of the pollution caused due to smoking and the smoke emitted out by vehicles in a major city of the country; and

(b) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The major adverse effects to tobacco smoking are increased risk of cancer, lung diseases, coronary heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, stroke and premature termination of pregnancy in women and low birth weight of newborn babies. The principal health effects of the major vehicular pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen and suspended particulate matter are respiratory diseases and increased susceptibility to infection. Carbon monoxide can effect neuro-behavioral functions and present a risk to the foetus. Lead particulates may impair the normal intellectual development and learning ability in children. Some of the volatile organic constituents such as benzene from automotive fuels are carcinogenic. It is however, difficult to make a comparison between health effects due to smoking and those due to pollutants emitted from vehicles.