

(a) to (d). The Central Government makes bulk allocation of rice, wheat, sugar edible oils to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under the PDS and the internal distribution within the State is undertaken by them. Decisions regarding scale of entitlement, periodicity of availability at the fair price shops, inter District and intra regional allocations including rural and urban areas are made by the State Government/UT Administrations. The scale of entitlement to rural and urban consumers may vary from one State to another and even vary from District to District within the same state.

2. Allocation of foodgrains, levy sugar, edible oils is made on a month to month basis taking into account factors such as availability of stocks in Central Pool (Central Government), market availability, seasonality factor and inter-se requirements of State/UTs. Allocation of PDS commodities are supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of the States/UTs.
3. During the year 1991 ad-hoc increase in the allocation of rice was made to State/UTs keeping in view the lean season factor for kharif cereals in August to October, 1991. Similarly ad-hoc increase of 5% in the allocation of levy sugar was made to the State Government from August, 1991 till March, 1992.

Production of Vegetable Oil

3535. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government with the production of vegetable oils in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to make the vegetable 'ghee' colorful and other vegetable oils in order to check the increasing adulteration in pure 'ghee' in the large interest of public health;

(c) if so, whether any effective steps are being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Government of India vide its Press Note No. 9 dated 1.8.91 have delicensed the production of vegetable oils in the country subject to certain locational restrictions. However, the crushing of Rape seed oil/ Mustard oil, Sesame oil (except solvent extracted) and Ground nut oil (except solvent extracted) are reserved for Small Scale Sector.

(b) to (d). A technical expert committee constituted in 1960 to find suitable color for vanaspati, submitted its report in 1965, which concluded that colorisation of vanaspati is neither practical nor desirable. The Committee felt that latent colourisation of vanaspati with sesame oil then in force should amply save the purpose. This is being currently followed.

Biotechnology park in Kerala

3536. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Bio-Technology park in Kerala is proposed to be started functioning; and

(b) the stage at which the work relating to completion of the park stands at present?