

[Translation]

Mismatch of Prices

920. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned 'Plan to check Wholesale Retail Price Mis-match' appearing in the daily Observer dated November 15, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme to protect the interest of the common consumer; and

(d) if so, the outlines of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The above referred report refers to the development of a model to estimate the wholesale and retail prices of some of the essential commodities and the request of the Central Government to the State Governments to set up Inter-Ministerial Committees at the state level to monitor the prices and availability situation of essential commodities. The preparation of the above model is a part of an on-going exercise to monitor the trends in the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities by the Government. In July, 1994, the Central Government had requested the State Governments to set up Interministerial Committees at the State level to monitor the prices and availability situation of essential commodities. In response to this, so far, nine State Governments have set up such Committees.

(c) and (d): The Government always protects the interest of the common consumers by taking suitable steps.

Levy Sugar

921. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of levy sugar is estimated to be less during 1994-95 sugarcane crushing season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of levy sugar available in the country by the end of September, 1994 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year;

(d) the estimated quantity of levy sugar available during 1994-95 and required for distribution to the consumers under PDS;

(e) whether the Government propose to import sugar in order to meet the shortage, if any; and

(f) if so, the quantity of sugar imported till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The The estimated stock of levy sugar at the end of September, 1994 was about 5 lakh tonnes as against 7.5 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date in the last season.

(d) and (e): Keeping in view the carry over stock of indigenous and imported sugar and the availability of levy sugar out of indigenous production for 1994-95 season which is in progress and the arrival of imported sugar out of the quantity already contracted, it is estimated that there would be sufficient availability of levy sugar to meet the public Distribution System requirement during 1994-95 season at the existing levy allocations.

(f) Out of the contracted quantity of 9.77 lakh tonnes of imported sugar expected as on 30.11.94 for Public Distribution System by Government agencies during 1993-94 season, 9.64 lakh tonnes has already arrived in the country.

[English]

Construction on Puri-Konark Beach

922. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have restrained the Government of Orissa from going ahead with its plans to promote big hotels on Puri-Konark marine drive and from completing the on going construction work of a bridge and road in the Konark Balukhand Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the State Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A revised proposal for diversion of 233.24 ha. of forest land for development of Special Tourism Area on the sea beach between Puri and Konark has been received from the State Government of Orissa under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the same is under examination. In respect of on going construction work of bridge and road in the Konark Balukhand Sanctuary the proposal has not been received.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Railway Lines

923. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount incurred on laying of new Railway lines during the last two years; and

(b) the total amount sanctioned for this purpose during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The position is as under: