

SUGAR MILLS

1469. **Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona** : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sugar Mills were sold in Uttar Pradesh in the name of privatisation of Sugar Mills; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food has not received any reference from the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding sale of Public/Cooperative Sector Sugar factories to the Private Sector.

SALE OF COARSE RICE

1470. **Shri Ram Kapse** : Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to sell the Coarse Rice at Rs. 20 a kilo from July 1, 1995.

(b) whether the Union Government intend to subsidise Rice and Wheat being distributed through Public Distribution System; and

(c) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented and the extent of subsidy proposed to be given?

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) The Government of Tamil Nadu have reported that they have reduced the end retail prices of common variety of rice under Public Distribution System to the level of Rs. 2/- per kg w.e.f. 1.7.95.

(b) and (c) Central Government makes available foodgrains for the Public Distribution System to all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh at uniform Central Issue Prices on which the Central Government incurs subsidy. There is no proposal to give additional grants or subsidy to any State/UT for this purpose.

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY COMMISSION

1471. **Shri R. Surender Reddy** : 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 Public Utilities Regulatory Commissions at the States and Centre levels to regulate the services provided by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the Public Distribution Utility Services that are proposed to be brought under the purview of the aforesaid Commission;

(c) whether all the Ministries are presently resisting the move for scrutiny of their services by the proposed Commission;

(d) if so, the details of their point of view; and

(e) the time by which a decision for setting up of the Public Utilities Regulation Commission is likely to be taken?

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 (e) In accordance with the recommendation of the Central Consumer Protection Council, the Central Government constituted a working group to examine the necessity of setting up of a Public Utilities Commission. The report was submitted by the Working Group. Public Utilities Commission is a new concept in our country and various ramifications of the proposal have to be analysed in depth by different Ministries/Departments before arriving at a decision. Hence no definite time limit can be prescribed.

IMPORT OF SOYABEAN SEEDS

1472. **Shrimati Girija Devi** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import Soyabeans seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts have drawn attention of the Government towards fatal diseases relating to agricultural crops which are likely to come with the imported seeds for Soyabean; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) The import of Soyabean Seeds is covered under the list of restricted items under the Export Import Policy and no proposal has so far been received for the import of seeds of soyabean for sowing purpose.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The imported seeds of soyabean are subjected to plant quarantine screening and laboratory investigations including grow-out tests at the port of entry. The consignment is released only when the stock is found free from exotic pests and diseases.