

(c) The following measures have been taken to check the rise in sugar prices:-

- (i) A quantity of 23.85 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar has been released during the months of January to April, 93, as compared to the release of 21.80 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.
- (ii) Apart from ensuring sale despatch of monthly freesale quotas within the valid period by the end of the month, sugar mills have also been directed to ensure sale/depacth of 47.5% of their quota during each fortnight.
- (iii) All State Governments have been requested to ensure regular and timely distribution of levy sugar through the Public Distribution System.

If the sugar prices continue to rise beyond reasonable levels despite the aforesaid measures, the Government would not hesitate to release additional quantities of freesale sugar and also enforce other regulatory measures to contain the prices of sugar in the open market.

(d) and (e). The monthly releases of freesale sugar for internal consumption are regulated in such a manner as to ensure that the release for export does not have any appreciable impact on sugar prices. A quantity of 3,72,950 MT of sugar was released for export during the calendar year 1993.

(f) Yes, Sir, as on 28.4.93, 232 sugar factories have stopped cane crushing during the current seasons 1992-93.

(g) and (h). Yes, Sir. A quantity of 18710.0 MT has been released as additional freesale sugar to various units of Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation Ltd

Edible Oil to Gujarat

7594. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of edible oil in Gujarat;

(b) the actual quota of edible oil provided to Gujarat during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the quota of edible oil to Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED):

(a) The total requirement of edible oil in Gujarat is not available. Government of Gujarat have not placed any demand for edible oils for PDS in the State during 1993 whereas the State Govt. had demanded allocation of 8,000 MTs of edible oil per month during 1992.

(b) The quantity of edible oil allocated to and lifted by the State of Gujarat during the last three years has been:

<i>Oil Year (Nov. Oct.)</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Lifting (in MTs)</i>
1989-90	78,450	66,443
1990-91	15,800	18,797
1991-92	8m 650	9,105

Besides, the Government of Gujarat imported directly a quantity of 5,952 MTs of palmolein against the authorisation for direct import of 8,000 MTs during the year 1991-92.

(c) and (d). Considering the ample availability of indigenous edible oil at reasonable prices in the country, edible oil is, at present, neither imported nor allocated to States on regular basis.

Ration Cards to Bangladesh Infiltrators

7595. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to change the procedure for issue of ration-card to prevent foreign nationals specially Bangladeshi infiltrators in getting such cards easily; and

(b) if not the details of the measures taken/proposed to prevent illegal migrants from Bangladesh to get ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED):

(a) and (b). The operational responsibility for implementing the public Distribution System (PDS) in the country is with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Decisions regarding opening of far price shops, eligibility criteria, issue of ration cards to bona fide consumers and laying down procedures and regulatory measures done by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Bona fide residents of a State are generally issued ration cards for getting access to PDS.

Rail Link between North Bengal and Calcutta

7596 SHRI JTIENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to connect North Bengal with Calcutta

through Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) There is no transit agreement with Bangladesh to provide for such connection.

[Translation]

Complaints Against Ticket Checkers

7597 SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received complaints in January/February, 1991 against several ticket checkers and conductors of Allahabad Junction in Northern Railway regarding creating alleged terror and arbitrary behaviour; and

(b) if so the action taken so far in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA):

(a) No such complaint seems to have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Late Running of Jhelum Express

7598. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of constant late running of 4677 Down Jhelum Express on every Monday from Pune;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA):

(a) Yes, Sir.