

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3092
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
PACKAGING OF SUGAR
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

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

- (a) whether the provisions of Sugar (Packing and Marking) Order, 1970 in respect to packing of sugar is still in force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not amending the same to suit the changed requirements after 30 years;
- (c) whether jute bags for packing sugar as per this order are non-food grade and also do not comply with International Labour Organisation Norms of 50 Kgs (or less); and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken to protect the health of consumers and workers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): The main provisions of the Sugar (Packing and Marking) Order 1970 are given in the annexure.

(c) & (d): It is not true that the sugar is packed in non-food grade jute bags. Food grade is a commercial term used for `hydro-carbon free` jute bags developed specifically for packaging coffee, cocoa and shelled nuts to meet their specific requirements.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3092 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK S
ON 16-3-2001.

(i) Packing of Sugar : Unless otherwise permitted by the Central Government a producer shall pack all sugar manufactured by vacuum pan process in new `A` twill jute bags, conforming to Indian Standard Specification IS: 1943-64, read with Amendment No. thereof. Each bag shall be 112 cm. long and 67.5 cm. wide and shall weight 1190 gms.

(ii) Quantity of Sugar to be packed in each bag : Unless otherwise permitted by the Central Government each bag of sugar shall contain 100 kilograms of sugar net.

(iii) Marking on bags (1) : Every producer shall at the time of packing mark on the bag in which the sugar is packed, its quality in terms of Indian Sugar Standards in force at that time and shall also ensure that the quality of sugar contained in the bag corresponds to the quality of sugar marked thereon until it is sold and delivered by him.

(2) Every bag of sugar shall bear on it, a label, the design of which is set out in the Schedule annexed to this Order specifying the following matters namely:

- (i) the quantitative contents of the bag,
- (ii) the quality of sugar contained therein;
- (iii) the year in which the sugar is manufactured and packed.

Further, through order dated 17.1.2001 the Government have also allowed sugar factories to pack sugar in small consumer packs below 5 kg. in any food grade material. The sugar factories are also allowed to pack sugar in 50 kg. bags for export of sugar using packing material as per foreign buyers choice. Moreover, the Government is considering the proposal to pack sugar in 50 kg. bags for indigenous consumption, the trials for which are under progress.