

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4093
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2001
BLACKMARKETING OF SUGAR MEANT FOR PDS
KUMUDINI PATNAIK;N.T. SHANMUGAM

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

- (a) whether the Government have proposed to distribute sugar in Public distribution system to the BPL card holders only of the country;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that the BPL Card holders are neither habituated nor can afford consumption of sugar and by prescribing sugar distribution to BPL card holders only, the dishonest dealers get the opportunity of black marketing in the sugar trade and minting money by this policy revision of Government; and
- (c) whether the Government will consider revising this instruction of sugar distribution through Public Distribution system only to the APL Card holders instead of BPL card holders to avoid rampant black market trade in sugar?

Answer

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

- (a): The Government has restricted the distribution of sugar in Public Distribution System(PDS) to BPL families in the country w.e.f. 1.2.2001, except the North Eastern States, Hilly States and island Union Territories.
- (b): It is not correct to presume that the BPL card holders are neither habituated nor can afford consumption of sugar. As regards black marketing in the sugar trade, the responsibility to ensure that no dealer of PDS sugar indulges in such illegal activity is that of State Governments/UT Administrations.
- (c): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise sugar distribution in the PDS to APL families.