

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
LIFTING OF BAN ON WHEAT AND SUGAR EXPORT
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has ruled out lifting the ban on wheat and sugar export till a final view is taken on the National Food Security Bill;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the views of the State Governments and experts in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a),(b) & (c): The ban on export of wheat was imposed vide D.G.F.T Notification No. 44(RE-2006)/2004-2009 dated 09/02/2007 with a view to contain the rise in price of wheat and to increase its availability in the country. The Government has reviewed the status of foodgrain availability vis-a-vis the requirement in the Central Pool as well as of the Country from time to time and decided to continue the ban on export of wheat with a view to contain the price rise and to meet the requirements under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, export of wheat on diplomatic ground has been allowed to friendly countries from Central Pool Stocks. The draft National Food Security Bill was placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on 11-7-2011. In pursuance of the directives of the EGoM, the draft bill has been sent to Ministry of Law & Justice for vetting. After legal vetting of the bill and consultation with the States and the Union Territories, approval of the Government at appropriate level will be taken.

As regards sugar, the exports are permitted from time to time under Advance Authorisation Scheme(AAS)/ Open General License(OGL) with due permission by the Government. The Government is permitting sugar export under AAS and OGL of about 21 lakh tons during the sugar season 2010-11.