

[Translation]

**Disparity in Supply of Items**

\*93. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :  
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

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

(a) the per unit quantity of sugar and Kerosene fixed under PDS;

(b) whether there is difference between the quantity of Sugar and Kerosene supplied to the consumers in rural and urban areas particularly in Uttar Pradesh under PDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to streamline the public distribution system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (c) Under the Public Distribution system, by and large, the States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh State are being supplied levy sugar calculated on a uniform norm of 425 gms per capita per month. This is currently being given as per 1991 Census population and accordingly, the levy sugar quota of all States/UTs. per month works out to 3.69 lakhs tonnes which is effective from 1.1.1996. In addition to above, the Government also releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as festival quota which is allocated to States/UTs in proportion of their monthly levy quota during the month(s) of their choice. The Central Government has no role in distribution of sugar within the State/UT and this is solely done by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Central Government makes bulk allocation of Kerosene to the States/UTs. Its retail distribution to the different areas within the State/UT is the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government has been advising the States/UTs to streamline the distribution of Kerosene in order to prevent its diversion and to ensure its distribution to the ready people. A very high increase has been given in the allocation of Kerosene in 1998-99 to those States having per capita availability of Kerosene much lower than the national average. An increase of 18.01% has been made in the allocation of Kerosene for Uttar Pradesh for the year 1998-99. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 2,12,261 MTs.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that the distribution of Sugar is being done at the rate of 1 kg. per unit in urban areas and 330 gms per unit in rural areas and Kerosene at the rate of 5 litre per ration card per month (LPG holders), 10 Lt. per ration card per month (General category) in urban areas, 5 Lt. per ration card per month in rural areas in plain, 10 Lt. per ration card per month in urban areas and depending on availability of Kerosene 5 to 10 Lt. per month per ration card in rural areas of the hill districts.

(d) and (e) The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been streamlined to make it more effective particularly for the population below poverty line and a new targeted PDS has been introduced throughout the country with effect from 1.6.1997. Copy of the Targeted PDS scheme has already been laid on the table of the House on 24th February, 1997. However, streamlining of PDS is a continuous process and Government does this from time to time to meet changing requirements.

[English]

**Increase in TB Cases**

\*94. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :  
DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tuberculosis (TB) cases reported in various health centres in the country have crossed 25 lakhs and the programmes for eradication of TB cases proved unsuccessful despite spending of huge amount on it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set up an expert committee to look into the progress in implementing the programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit the report; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The trend of TB cases in the country reported under the Programme over last several years has been more or less static. Since the implementation of National TB Control Programme, over the years the death rate from TB has come down from estimated 80 per lakh in 1970 to around 53 per lakh at

present. Incidence of serious forms of childhood TB is on the decline, and extensive exudative lesions are less frequently seen.

(c) to (e) The Government has not set up any expert committee to look into the progress in the implementation of the Programme.

(f) Under the National TB Programme 466 Districts Tuberculosis Centres (DTCs) have been established which provide free diagnostic and treatment facilities to the community. To reduce the period of treatment, short course chemotherapy has been introduced in 292 DTCs. The entire requirement of anti-TB Drugs for the DTCs is being met by the Central Government.

Under the National TB Control Programme, the treatment completion rates remained between 30 to 40%. To achieve a cure rate of 85%, the revised implementation strategy was introduced in 20 pilot sites covering population of about 20 million. Now with the World Bank Assistance, this revised strategy will be implemented in 102 Districts of the Country over the next three years. Further, 203 Short Course Chemotherapy Districts are proposed to be strengthened as a transitional step for adoption of revised strategy.

#### Dual Citizenship

\*95. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian settled abroad have been granted double citizenship in many countries;

(b) if so, the details of the countries who grant dual citizenship;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to adopt the same policy of granting dual citizenship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Such details are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee is examining this issue.

#### Prices of Essential Commodities

\*96. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar, bread, milk, edible oils and various spices during 1997 and the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of increase during the last three years till date, item-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check price-rise of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the percentage variation to wholesale price index of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, bread, mild, edible oils and spices for last three years (upto 9.5.1998) is attached. The main reasons for the rise in price of certain essential commodities are the increased demand due to increase in population, nearly stagnant and lower production of certain commodities, existing gap in demand and supply of selected items like pulses, vegetable oils etc., rise in the cost of their inputs and lower imports due to higher prices in international market.

(c) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the control of prices of essential commodities. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of essential goods, imports under Open General Licence (OGL) of items which are in short supply like edible oils and pulses are being permitted in order to augment the total availability of these items. Government has decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, imported palmolein and kerosene are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/ UT Governments.

#### Statement

Annual percentage variation in wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto 9.5.98).

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998
	1	3	4	5
Rice	4.5	13.0	1.7	0.4
Wheat	-1.6	33.3	-3.4	-6.3