

[English]

Foreign Citizens

2026. SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign citizens living in Delhi; and
- (b) the time by which their names will be excluded from the voter lists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There were as on the 28th February, 1999, 48805 foreign citizens registered in Delhi. According to the report furnished by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, none of these foreign citizens have been included in the voters list.

[Translation]

Availability of Food Items

2027. SHRI H.P. SINGH:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the specified food items are generally not available to the people at the ration shops in rural areas tribal areas and the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the availability and quality of these items under Public Distribution System Revamped Public Distribution System; and

(d) the number of complaints received from the general masses in this behalf during the last one year State/Union Territory-wise, month-wise and items-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) While the Central Government

procures and makes available to the States/UTs PDS commodities at subsidised prices, the responsibility of distribution to the consumers through the network of fair price shops rests with the State Governments. The complaints received from the public in this regard are referred to the States/UTs concerned for taking necessary action. No major complaint regarding non-availability of specified food items or their quality has been received during the last one year.

Allocation of specified food items under the Public Distribution System (PDS), viz., rice, wheat, sugar and edible oil to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations is made more than a month in advance to ensure their availability to the consumers. As regards the quality, foodgrains are procured strictly conforming to uniform specifications. The quality of these items is continuously monitored during storage. Foodgrains conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are issued for PDS.

Besides above, following steps are also taken by the Government to check the quality of foodgrains distributed under PDS:

- (i) The representatives of the State Governments are allowed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting stocks from the godowns for distribution under PDS/TPDS.
- (ii) Sealed samples of foodgrains from the issuing lots are displayed at fair price shops for the benefit of consumers.
- (iii) Surprise checks are carried out at fair price shops to check the quality of foodgrains.

Brain Drain

2028. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the brain drain of the meritorious talents who have secured education from the prestigious institutions of the country;

(b) if so, the main causes therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring back talents and engage them in the development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Some Indian Scientists, Engineers do migrate to other countries for higher studies/work abroad. In order to attract such personnel back to the country, the Government have taken steps which include increase in Science and Technology outlays, creation of new Scientific Departments/Organisations, delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to Science & Technology Institutions, temporary placement of Scientists and Technologists under the Scientists Pool etc.

[English]

Consumption of Sugar

2029. SHRI T.R. BAALU:
SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) the total production and consumption of sugar during 1997-98 and the current year;

(b) the total carry forward stock of sugar from the last year;

(c) whether there is any difference between the pattern of production and consumption of sugar in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(e) whether the Government propose to rejuvenate the sick mills in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to fill up this gap;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the co-operative sugar mills in these States are working in a good condition;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The total production and consumption of sugar during the sugar seasons 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto 31.1.99) was as under:—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Sugar season	Production	Internal consumption
1997-98	128.27 (P)	139.80 (P)
1998-99 (upto 31.1.99)	67.61 (P)	45.42 (P)

(P) = Provisional

(b) The total carry forward stock of sugar from the last sugar season (as on 1.10.98) was 53.7 lakh tonnes (Provisional).

(c) and (d) Sugar production in the country has been following a cyclical trend i.e. 2-3 years of high production followed by 2-3 years of low production. After reaching an all time high production level of 164.29 lakh tonnes during the sugar season 1995-96, the downward trend in sugar production started with a production of 129.05 lakh tonnes during 1996-97 sugar season and 128.27 lakh tonnes (Provisional) during the 1997-98 sugar season. The production of sugar during the current sugar season 1998-99 is estimated to be around 150 lakh tonnes. The State-wise trend of sugar production during the sugar seasons 1995-96 to 1997-98 is shown in the enclosed *Statement*.

The availability of sugar for internal consumption is both from domestic production and imports. It is not possible to quantify as to how much imported sugar was consumed as there is no release mechanism for sugar imported under Open General Licence (OGL). While the State-wise levy sugar quota is fixed and it has to be consumed within that State only, the free-sale quota released in respect of sugar mills situated in one State can be consumed by other State(s) as there is no restriction on inter-State movement of free-sale sugar. It is therefore not possible to give the State-wise breakup of consumption of sugar.

(e) and (f) Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation modernisation/re-opening and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for cane