

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, August 11, 1980/Sravana 20,
1902 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Distribution of Sugar in Rural and Urban Areas

*920. PROF. NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAR: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a
statement showing:

(a) whether sugar is being distributed through ration cards uniformly throughout the country both in the urban and rural areas;

(b) if not, the quantity of sugar being supplied per head in each one of the States/Union Territories, in rural and urban areas;

(c) the reasons for this unequal distribution; and

(d) the likely date by which a uniform quantity of sugar per head would be supplied throughout the country both in the rural and urban areas?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):
(a) to (d). A statement is laid on
the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The scales for the distribution of levy sugar are uniform for urban and rural areas only in 20 States/Union Territories.

(b) The quantity of sugar being supplied per head in different States/Union Territories is indicated in another Statement.

(c) At the time of re-introduction of the policy of partial control on sugar in December, 1979, the monthly quotas of levy sugar allocated to different State Governments/Union Territory Administrations during the previous partial control period prior to de-control of sugar in August, 1978 were revived and the State Governments were advised to arrange distribution of the quotas allotted to them through fair price shops/ration shops under the public distribution system in force in the respective States in such manner as they deemed fit. This was considered necessary in the light of steep decline in sugar production to enable the State Governments to adjust the distribution of levy sugar within their existing quotas.

(d) A review of the existing distribution arrangements is not contemplated by the Government for the present.

STATEMENT

Scales of Distribution of Levy Sugar in Different States/Union Territories

- 1 ANDHRA PRADESH . District-wise allocation of levy sugar is based on allocation given immediately prior to decontrol. In the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, 500 gms. per head per month subject to maximum of 3 kgs per family to lower income card holders and 1 kg. per head per month subject to maximum of 6 kgs. per family to higher income group card holders earning Rs. 650/- and above per month.

2. ASSAM 425 gms. per head per month uniformly for rural and urban areas.
3. BIHAR 875 gms. per head—urban areas
356 gms. per head—rural areas
4. GUJARAT 500 gms. per capita per month fixed for June, 1980 both for rural and urban areas. In May, 1980 the quantum was raised to 550 gms. per head from advance allocation.
5. HARYANA 400 gms. per head per month uniform for both urban and rural areas against ration cards.
6. HIMACHAL PRADESH 400 gms. per head. Raised to 500 gms. per head from June, 1980. No distinction between rural and urban consumers.
7. J & K Uniform scale of 400 gms. per head per month in urban and rural areas.
8. KERALA 450 gms. per head per month through ration cards uniformly throughout the State.
9. KARNATAKA Urban areas 425 gms. to 1 kg. per capita per month.
Rural areas 300 gms. to 500 gms. per capita per month.
10. MADHYA PRADESH 450 gms. per unit per month both in urban and rural areas. It was increased to 750 gms. to 1 kg. per unit in urban areas in May, 1980 only due to receipt of back-log Sugar.
11. MAHARASHTRA 425 gms. per head per month throughout the State. Increased to 500 gms. per capita as one time allotment to be drawn in May or June, 1980.
12. MANIPUR (i) In Imphal Municipality area where ration card system is in force : 400 grams per head per month against ration cards.
(ii) In rural areas, where card system is not enforced and distribution made through Rationing Agents : 3 quintals per month for a population of 1000 with additional 1 quintal for every increase of 500 persons subject to a maximum of 6 quintals per month.
(iii) For Hill areas distribution made on lump sum basis per month as under :—
(1) East District 150 quintals
(2) North District 200 quintals
(3) West District 100 quintals
(4) South District 200 quintals
(5) Tengnongpal District 100 quintals
(6) Jiribam Sub-Division 50 quintals
13. MEGHALAYA Urban areas—400 grams per head per month
Rural areas—200 grams per head per month
14. NAGALAND Information not received from the State Government.
15. ORISSA In urban areas
(i) 'A' Class cards 1 kg. per head per month subject to 5 kgs. per family.

	(ii) 'B' Class cards	750 grams per head per month subject to 3 kgs. 750 gms. per family per month.
	<i>In rural areas</i>	425 grams per head per month.
16. PUNJAB	400 grams per month per capita for both urban and rural consumers. Scale raised on ad hoc basis to 600 grams per capita in March, 1980 and 800 grams per capita in May, 1980.	
17. RAJASTHAN †	425 grams per head per month both for urban and rural areas. Collectors increase the scale as per availability.	
18. SIKKIM	1 kg. per unit per month in urban area. 1 kg. per head on coupon in rural area.	
19. TAMIL NADU.	(i) Madras city & other Distt. H.Qs. (ii) Other Municipalities & townships (iii) Town panchayats & rural areas During May, 1980, additional 1 kg. sugar per card was issued in rural areas.	5 kgs. per card per month. 3 kgs. per card per month. 1 kg. per card per month.
20. TRIPURA	400 grams per head per month.	
21. UTTAR PRADESH	(1) In Nainital District (2) In Almora, Tehri (a) Urban areas Garhwal, Chamoli, Uttar Kashi, Pithoragarh and Pauri (b) Rural areas Garhwal Distts. (3) In Nagar Mahapalika and nagar palika areas of other districts. (4) Police and PAC Mess, Student's hostel mess, Unit 3 patients of indoor wards of Govt. hospitals (5) In notified area (6) In town area (7) In rural areas of plains (i) On ration cards upto 4 units (ii) On ration cards of 5 to 9 units	1 kg. per unit per month both in urban and rural areas. 1 kg. per unit per month. 500 gms. per unit per month. 1 kg. per unit per month. 1 kg. per unit per month. 750 grams per unit per month. 508 grams per unit per month. 1 kg. per month. 2 kgs. per month.

- (iii) On ration cards of more than 9 units 3 kgs. per month.
22. WEST BENGAL . . . (a) In statutory rationing areas of Calcutta complex and Durgapur Asansol 100 grams per head per week irrespective of child or adult.
- (b) Other areas 75 gms. per head per week.
- Distribution of levy sugar at enhanced rates of 200 grams per head per week for S.R. areas and 100 grams per head per week for other areas started only for 4 weeks w.e.f. 2-6-80.
23. ANDAMAN ISLANDS . . . 900 grams per head per month on ration cards uniform for both urban and rural areas.
24. ARUNACHAL PRADESH. 900 grams per head (adult) per month.
25. CHANDIGARH (U.T.) . . . 600 grams per head per month both for rural and urban areas.
26. DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI The scale of distribution on ration cards is uniform for urban and rural areas. 500 grams per head per month on ration cards throughout the Union Territory.
27. DELHI 900 grams per head per month, both for urban and rural areas.
28. GOA, DAMAN & DIU . . . 400 grams per head per month on ration cards uniformly in rural and urban areas.
29. LAKSHADWEEP 1 kg. per head per month on ration cards.
30. MIZORAM Levy sugar distribution on ration cards in uniform scales of 425 grams per adult per month both in rural and urban areas.
31. PONDICHERRY
1. *In Pondicherry & Karaikal regions*
 - For 'A' & 'B' card holders 4 kgs.
 - For 'C' card holders 3 kgs.
 - For 'D' card holders 1 kg.
 2. *In Mahe region* Uniform supply at 1 kg. per adult and $\frac{1}{2}$ kg. for child subject to maximum of 6 kgs. per card.
 3. *In Yanam region* 1 kg. per adult and $\frac{1}{2}$ kg. per child subject to maximum of 7 kgs.
 - For 'D' cardholders $\frac{1}{2}$ kg. per adult and $\frac{1}{4}$ kg. per child subject to maximum of 7 kgs.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Sir, from the statement it appears that there is a wide disparity in the distribution of sugar in various States. For example, in Delhi it is 900 grams per head per month. In Madhya Pradesh it is 750 gms. and in many other States it is 500 gms and less. I want to know the reasons for this as to why in certain States it is almost double to that in other States where it is half.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, sugar is distributed to the States. The States fix the quantum as to how much a person is entitled. That is why it is left to the States.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: There is an interesting information. There are some kinds of A class cards, B class cards and C class cards. What is this system of classification and why is it so?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): Sir, the sugar quota for the States was determined on the basis of population and the system was in vogue up to 1978. Then it was discontinued. When the system was again taken up in December 1979, the previous allocations to the States were retained as they were previously. There is no doubt, there are some States where the per capita sugar quota is slightly more than in other States. The idea was to have 425 grams per capita per month for the entire country. But then the projections for population as in 1978 did not prove to be quite the same as they were estimated to be. That is why there is slightly more sugar in Gujarat and in Delhi also as it was previously, the per capita allocation was fixed at more than 25 grams per head. But as my colleague has stated, it has been left to the States to make variations where they think fit. In some of the States sugar ration for urban areas is higher than the ration in rural areas. But the Central Government does not want to interfere in the internal arrangements of the States. In some States, as the

hon. Member, Shri Parashar has stated, there is system of cards being of different categories. There is classification on the basis of income. I do not have full details about it, but for instance, in Orissa A class cards are for persons with slightly higher incomes and B class cards for lower income groups. That is the classification that the State Government has done. We do not know the details.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister (a) whether he has received any communication from West Bengal to increase sugar quota for West Bengal. May I know whether he has given special quotas to the States for this season of festivals like Id, Puja, Onam, Guru Nanak Birthday etc.?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: On account of the shortage of sugar in the country, which the hon. Member knows very well, it is not possible to accept the demands of the various States for increasing the quota allotted to them.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Production during the 1979-80 crushing season came to 39 lakh tonnes. The carry over stock was 21 lakh tonnes, and there has been an import of sugar of the order of 2 lakh tonnes. Therefore, the total availability of sugar is about 62 lakh tonnes in our country for the current year. But consumption never reaches such a high degree. In view of this it appears that there is more an apparent than a real shortage of sugar in our country. Having regard to this, would the hon. Minister kindly let us know the particular reasons for the price rise in sugar? In order to obviate the price rise, would the hon. Minister say that nationalisation of the sugar industry as a whole is the only way out?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I do not agree with the last part of the question. I do not think that nationalisation is the only way out. So far as our stocks are concerned, we hope

that we shall be able to maintain supplies at the present level up to the next crushing season.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: The quota allotted to Orissa for December was not received till the end of March. Similarly, the quota for every month is not being received in time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this backlog would be made up.

Secondly, the bags received from the FCI are not full, there is a shortage of 5 to 10 kg. So, may I know what steps he is going to take to ensure that the dealer gets his full quantity?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The allocation for Orissa up to July, 1980, is 79,000 tonnes, and out of this 67,660 tonnes has reached the State. So, there is only a balance of about 11,000 tonnes. Certainly, Government is making all efforts to see that the backlog reaches the State.

In regard to shortage, if a specific complaint is received, we shall enquire.

National Seeds Project

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*921. **SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA:**

SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to take up a National Seeds Project in the country;

(b) if so, since when the proposal is under consideration;

(c) the amount earmarked for the Project;

(d) whether any aid has been given for the said project and the main functions of the project; and

(e) the delay in taking it up and the States which are to be covered under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) A National Seeds Programme is already under implementation.

(c) to (e) The amount earmarked is Rs. 55 crores. The World Bank is providing a loan assistance of nearly 41 million US dollars. The Programme covers States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra Punjab, Bihar, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and U.P. The objective is to develop arrangements for production of breeder seeds, foundation seeds and certified seeds. For this purpose, the Programme envisages establishment/strengthening of State Seeds Corporations and the National Seeds Corporation. Infrastructure in the form of seed processing facilities and storage are also envisaged.

SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: It is surprising that a State like Gujarat has been avoided in this programme. What are the reasons for not taking up Gujarat in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): Various States have been mentioned and it is with reference to the climatic conditions, the particular pattern of cultivation in certain States and the possibility of the State governments taking up the programme in right earnest, according to the local needs, that the States have been selected. Four States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana, have been selected under Phase-I of the National Seeds Programme. In the second phase, five more States viz. Bihar, Karnataka Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are to be taken up. But in Gujarat, which is very advanced in cultivation of oil seeds, particularly groundnut, we have established certain centres for research and development of groundnut.