

kilogram at which it is issued to the consumers under the public distribution system. The quantity of each commodity issued to a consumer by the State Government differs as between the States, depending on the consumer habits and preference availability and local condition. Similarly, in addition to the seven commodities mentioned above, State Government has the option to include any other items of mass consumption in the public distribution system, if it so wishes, by arranging for their procurement on its own. This a number of States are also issuing items like soap Match-box, cycle tyres and tubes etc., through the public distribution system. In all such matters, it would neither be possible nor practicable in the interests of the consumers to adopt a uniform policy throughout the country because of the variations in the circumstances, existing in the respective States/Union Territories. Moreover, in a system like Public Distribution, which runs on coordination between the Centre and the States, a certain measure of autonomy and freedom of action to the States is most essential for the successful implementation of the system.

#### **Crash of Sugar Prices due to Heavy release of Free Sale Sugar**

\*114. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Sugar Mills Association and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories have lodged a strong protest with Government for the second time for ordering an unusually large scale release of free sale sugar in the market;

(b) whether this large scale release of sugar has resulted in crash in the sugar prices in the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Sugar

Mills Association and National Federation of Coop. Sugar Factories have sent representations asking for reduction in the quantity of monthly free sale sugar quotas with a view to stabilise sugar prices in open market at higher levels enabling the factories to improve their realisations from sale of free sale sugar.

(b) and (c) I was with a view to safeguard the interest of consumers particularly during festival period and also to keep the surplus availability of sugar within manageable limits that the quantum of monthly freesale quota was increased and these quota ranged from 3.00 to 3.30 lakh tonnes during the period August—December, 1982. Subsequently taking into account the market situation, the lack of seasonal demand, availability of alternative sweeteners, the quota for January and February, 1984 was reduced to 2.50 lakh tonnes and 2.00 lakh tonnes respectively. Freesale quota for March, 1983 has been further reduced to 1.50 lakh tonnes. Thus always releases have been governed by the need for keeping the price level at a reasonable level in the context of the viability of mills and consumer interest. In future months also the release of freesale quota will be regulated in a judicious manner so as to keep the prices at reasonable levels.

#### **Consignment of Shoes and Kit Bags by Japanese Firm Lost in Transit**

†115. SHRI A. K. BALAN: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a consignment of 550 pairs of training shoes and 1000 kit bags supplied by Japanese firm for the Indian team participating in the Ninth Asian Games was lost in transit from Delhi Air-port to the Asiad village; and

(b) if so the details thereof?