

Availability of Edible Oil during Festival Season

508. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve edible oil availability during the October-November festival season ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the impact of the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allocation of imported edible oil to States/UTs under the Public Distribution System and to the vanaspati industry has been increased to the level of 2.53 lakh M.T. and 2.59 lakh M.T. during the months of October and November 1987.

(c) Increased availability has had a softening effect on edible oil prices in the country.

Increase in Price of Molasses

509. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision recently to increase the price of molasses in vacuum pan sugar factories and khandsari sugar factories ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken suitable steps to see that part of the additional income due to price hike in molasses is passed on the cane growers with immediate effect.

(c) if so, the details thereof ? and

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking such steps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The benefit of the additional income accruing from the sales realisation of molasses will be passed on entirely to the consumer by adjusting it in the retail price of levy sugar distributed through Public Distribution System for 1987-88 season and hence no part of this income could be available for payment to sugarcane growers.

Power Failures in Capital

510. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI P.M. SAYEED :

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were big power failures in the Capital during the months of September and October, 1987 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor : and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such occurrences in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the power supply in the capital was disrupted on six occasions in the month of September and October, 1987 on account of system disturbances in the Northern Region Power Grid.

(b) and (c). The disturbances occurred mainly on account of fluctuations in the grid parameters. Due to spurt in the agricultural pumping demand, the requirement of reactive compensation in the system has increased considerably. Inadequate reactive compensation in the system results in poor voltage conditions. In order to improve the voltage profile in the grid, the constituent systems have been requested to instal additional capacitors.