

(g) the manner by which this sugar is likely to be sold to States as well to the consumers; and

(h) the details of subsidy proposed to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the context of the ample aggregate availability of Sugar, the Sugar Industry had requested that imports not be resorted to and that the shortfall on the levy side be made good by Government by purchasing free-sale sugar from the Sugar Mills.

(c) to (f) Government have decided to purchase upto 12 lakhs tonnes of free-sale Sugar, depending upon requirement, from the domestic Mills under a transparent pricing formula. The pricing formula sets out that the purchase price would be the lowest of the following three alternative prices :-

- (i) Actual weighted average free-sale realisation for the preceding three months.
- (ii) The sale price in the current month; or
- (iii) The CIF cost of imports.

In the entire period of 1998, no decision had been taken at any stage for import of Sugar.

(g) Levy sugar is not sold to States. The existing procedure for making the Sugar available to the consumer through the Public Distribution System (PDS), will be followed.

(h) The quantum of subsidy paid in any year is related to the difference between the retail cost and the retail issue price of Sugar in the PDS. The revision of retail issue price of Sugar is notified in the course of the year to which it is applicable. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the quantum of subsidy which will be required to run the PDS.

[Translation]

Mobile Phones in Tihar Jail

6001. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of availability of mobile phones with the criminals lodged in Tihar Jail;

(b) whether the mobile phones have been seized from the criminals lodged in Tihar Jail recently; and

(c) the details of persons found guilty in this regard and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) During the current year, 12 'mobile phones' were recovered from the Jail premises. These were found either in possession of

the prisoners or concealed at different places within the jail premises. In the former case, the prisoner concerned was debarred from meeting visitors for a specified period of time.

The Jail authorities have also charge-sheeted 10 officials for their lapses connected with smuggling of prohibited articles including mobile phones into the jail.

[English]

Sale of Rice in Orissa

6002. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa is selling rice at the rate of rupees two per kg. for People Below Poverty Line and rupees four per Kg for People Above Poverty Line under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the State Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Government of Orissa is selling rice @ Rs. 2/- per kg to families below poverty line (BPL) and Rs. 4/- per kg to families above poverty line (APL) under Public Distribution System (PDS) in 143 blocks covered under Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).

(b) and (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains are issued to the States/UTs at dual prices, viz., Central Issue Prices (CIP) applicable to BPL families and CIP applicable to APL families. Any State wishing to issue foodgrains at lower prices than those fixed by the Government of India can do so provided the additional subsidy is provided from that State's resources. The Government of India do not maintain details of the additional subsidy borne by the States/UTs under PDS.

Corruption in the Wakf Board

6003. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government/C.B.I. have received any complaint against the Chairman, Delhi Wakf Board regarding corruption/irregularities in the said Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and