

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Government is operating a system whereby localised shortage of medicines is reported by the State Drug Controllers to the concerned manufacturer(s) under intimation to this Department i.e. shortage are monitored at State level. On the basis of reports received in regard to shortages, the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturers for ensuring speedy availability of the medicines in the areas concerned.

A general analysis of the reports received indicate that no general shortage of essential/life saving drugs has come to notice. Localised short go of some particular branded formulations have been reported. In such instances of temporary shortages, it has been noticed that therapeutic equivalents of medicines are normally available.

[*Translation*]

Price of Levy Sugar

5019. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :

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

(a) the quantum of levy sugar procured by the Government from Sugar Mills during 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the rate at which it was procured;

(b) whether the Government have not fixed the procurement price of levy sugar to be paid to sugar mills for the year 1997-98;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering to increase the procurement price of levy sugar;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the price of levy sugar for 1997-98 has not been declared by the Government so far;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the levy price for 1997-98, 1998-99 is likely to be fixed; and

(h) the loss suffered by the States particularly by Uttar Pradesh due to this delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (g) During the 1996-97 Sugar Season (October-September), 41.30 lakh tonnes of levy sugar was procured, while in the 1997-98 Sugar Season (upto 15.06.1998), 33.5 lakh tonnes of levy sugar has been procured.

The procurement price for levy sugar fixed for the 1996-97 Sugar Season was Rs. 1,000.77 per qtl, while that for the 1997-98 Sugar Season, is Rs. 1,022.46 per qtl. The 1998-99 Sugar Season will commence from 1.10.1998, and the levy price for that Season will be notified in the course of the Season.

(h) The levy price, irrespective of when it is notified, is effective from the 1st of October of the Sugar Season to which it applies. Prior to the notification of the levy price for a Season, provisional payment is made to the Mills at the rate of the levy price for the previous Season, and after notification of the relevant Season's levy price, this is brought into effect retrospectively from 1st October of that Season. Therefore, no loss is suffered by any Sugar Mill.

[*English*]

Malpractices in Agencies

5020. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Petrol/Diesel outlets and LPG agencies found indulging in malpractices in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of such outlets and agencies whose licences have been cancelled;