

Fluctuation in Production of Sugar

883. SHRI R. ANNA NAMBI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major problem facing the sugar industry is the cyclical fluctuation in production arising from instability in supply of sugarcane; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Inadequate supply of sugarcane is one of the factors that creates fluctuations in sugar production.

(b) Among the more important steps to ensure adequate supply of sugarcane to sugar mills include :

- (i) demarcation of reserved areas for sugar mills;
- (ii) ensuring remunerative cane price to growers;
- (iii) cane developmental and marketing activities undertaken by the State Governments and sugar mills;
- (iv) checking diversion of reserved cane for sugar mills to the manufacture of khandsari and gur by power crushers;
- (v) further licensing of sugar factories as well as permitting expansion in the existing factories to provide for better and more efficient utilisation of available cane;
- (vi) developing intensive cultivation of sugarcane through the production and distribution of better quality seed cane, cane cultivation practices, undertaking plant protection measures and training of farmers and field level workers;
- (vii) urging the States Governments to ensure timely payment of cane price to the growers.

Setting up of Osmosis Plants in Coastal Areas

884. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made contingency plans to withstand the occurrence of severe droughts and lack of drinking water in coastal areas as occurred in Tamil Nadu in 1983;

(b) whether he is considering setting up reverse osmosis plants in certain selected areas on an experimental basis; and

(c) the names of such areas and the likely cost for those plants ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) The States are expected to make such plans. Drought affected areas are given priority in providing water supply facilities under normal plan programme.

(b) This Ministry is funding a Research project on large scale application of water desalination research with a view to providing safe drinking water in areas affected by salinity problems.

(c) Under the above project 8 demonstration plants based on reverse osmosis and electro-dialysis processes are being set up on experimental basis in selected villages in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamilnadu. The cost of each unit will be approximately Rs. 3.2 lakhs and will be met fully by the Ministry of Works and Housing.

Handing over of Flats (SFS III) in Vijaya Mandal Enclave by D.D.A.

885. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the D. D. A. has handed over possession of the D. D. A. SFS-III flats at Kalu Sarai, Vijaya Mandal Enclave by the end of February, 1985;