

should sell about 65,000 quintals of wheat seed through their own marketing network in the State.

The Government of Assam had indicated that they would need 98,000 quintals of wheat seeds during the current rabi season. Out of this quantity, the State Government has placed an order for 20,000 quintals with National Seeds Corporation, for another 20,000 quintals from the Uttar Pradesh Seed and Tarai Development Corporation and 10,000 quintals of wheat seeds from Haryana Seed Development Corporation. The National Seeds Corporation, as an inter-state marketing agency, has informed the Assam Government that they will be prepared to supply 10,000 quintals on behalf of Haryana Seed Development Corporation. Thus, it will be seen that the Assam Government has placed orders with public agencies to the extent of 50,000 quintals. They had not approached the Government of India to help procure the balance of their requirements.

The Government of India learnt that the Assam Government had placed a large order for certified wheat seeds with a private firm of Uttar Pradesh. However, the Government of Assam has not confirmed to the Government of India whether, in fact, they have placed orders with a private party or parties and, if so, the size of those orders.

If some of the Eastern States procured huge quantities of sub-standard seeds from private firms, the public sector seed producing agencies are likely to suffer losses as they have large quantities of wheat seeds with them.

(b) As the current marketing season is not yet over and as the results of certain export enquiries are not yet known, it is not possible to say, at this stage, how much of the seeds stock lying with public sector seed agencies will remain unsold and the consequent financial loss.

(c) The Government of India had received a report from the National Seeds Corporation that the Government of Assam had probably placed an order for a large quantity of wheat seed with a private party of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The National Seeds Corporation is making maximum efforts to sell its stocks in the Eastern States, in particular, and in other parts of the country as well. They are also making efforts to export seed.

Fall in Sugar Production

43. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the main reason behind high prices of sugar is the fall in production of sugar in the country ;

(b) the total production of sugarcane in the country from 1982-83 to 1984-85 and the quantity of sugarcane that went to the factories for crushing and the quantity diverted to Gur and Khandsari ;

(c) the price offered to sugarcane growers during the period by Khandsari, and by sugar factories especially in the corporate sector ; and

(d) in case less sugarcane has been offered for crushing, the reasons for the same and action taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of sugarcane to sugar factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The information is tabulated below :

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Season	Production of sugarcane	Quantity crushed by factories	Quantities utilised for gur & Khandsari manufacture	(approximate figures)
1982-83	1895	826.7	841	
1983-84	1741	589.9	942	
1984-85	1736	600.3	928	
		(Provisional)		

(c) The range of prices actually paid by sugar factories during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons is given in the statement given below.

Gur and Khandsari lie in the unorganised sector and the prices paid by them depend on market forces of demand and supply. These prices differ widely from region to region and season to season. Information on the prices paid by these sectors is not available with the Government.

(d) Rise in the prices of gur and khandsari and cane price arrears during 1981-82 and 1982-83 due to tight liquidity position of the sugar mills have

contributed to the diversion of sugarcane to gur and khandsari manufacture.

The State Government have been advised on measures to check diversion of sugarcane. These measures include proper demarcation of reserved areas for factories, non-granting of fresh licences for khandsari units within reserved areas, ban on unlicensed crushers and ensuring prompt payment of sugarcane price by sugar factories. Besides, excise duty rebate for early crushing of sugarcane during the current season has been announced. The statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories has also been raised to Rs. 16.50 per quintal linked to 8.5% recovery as compared to Rs. 14.00 per quintal for the last season.

Statement

Prices of Sugarcane Paid by Sugar Factories

(Rs. per quintal)

State	1982-83 season	1983-84 season (Provisional)	1984-85 season (Provisional)
Uttar Pradesh	20.50 to 21.50	20.50 to 21.50	21.00 to 22.00
Bihar	20.50 (19.00 w.e.f. 4.5.83)	20.50	21.00

1	2	3	4
Punjab	20.00 to 23.00	20.00 to 23.00	22.00 to 25.00
Haryana	20.00 to 23.00	20.00 to 23.00	21.00 to 24.16
Assam	18.00 to 20.00	17.00	21.17
West Bengal	16.00 to 20.00	22.00 to 24.00	22.00
Orissa	14.38 to 23.00	17.50 to 22.00	21.00 to 23.50
Madhya Pradesh	20.00	20.00	21.00 to 25.00
Rajasthan	17.00 to 25.00	16.99 to 24.00	20.50 to 24.00
Maharashtra	15.00 **	15.00 **	17.00 to 25.23 (advance)
Gujarat	14.50 to 20.50	10.00 to 20.40 ** **	15.00 to 23.60 (advance)
Andhra Pradesh	13.46 to 22.64	14.29 to 22.64	15.49 to 25.09
Tamil Nadu	14.95 to 20.61	13.50 to 20.52	15.15 to 23.94
Karnataka	17.00 to 22.16 (Provisional)	18.00 to 22.00	18.00 to 23.50 (Provisional)
Kerala	17.00 to 20.00	17.50 to 20.99	18.00 to 22.57
Pondicherry	17.69	17.69	17.50 to 18.50
Nagaland	17.50	18.50	19.00
Goa	27.40	23.20	26.00 (including harvest & Transport charges)

** = Advance—Ex-field