

sugar mills, reports of commencement of production, during the current sugar year have not been received from 43 mills. It is possible that some of these mills may be starting soon or may have already started and the position is known only when the mills send reports under statutory provisions of commencement of production. However, as per reports received 296 mills were in production on 15-1-1985.

(c) and (d). It is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that sugar mills commence cane crushing for any sugar season timely. Non-availability of cane, financial and labour problems are generally the reasons for which mills remain closed.

[*English*]

Kharif Production

95. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether kharif crops in 1984 was satisfactory;

(b) what has been the production of rice and other products in that crop;

(c) whether there is any proposal to export rice or other produce of the kharif crop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Final estimates of production of kharif crops for 1984 have not yet become due from the States.

(c) and (d). Under the current export policy, only basmati rice is allowed for export under the open General Licence. Export of non-basmati rice is not allowed. Export of bajra is canalised through NAFED within a ceiling and within the overall canalisation policy, private parties are also allowed to export bajra subject to certain conditions. Export of maize is also allowed within a limited ceiling. Proposals to export agricultural

commodities are reviewed from time to time in the light of the crop size and surplus available within the country.

Recommendation of Lokur Committee Regarding Charges for Peripheral Services

96. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (a) of the Unstarred Question No. 3209 on 13 August, 1984 regarding recommendation of Lokur Committee regarding charges for peripheral services and state :

(a) whether Government have referred the recommendations of the Lokur Committee to the Attorney General of India;

(b) if so, his opinion thereon; and

(c) whether the requisite information referred to in part (b) of the above mentioned reply has since been collected ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

Impact of Late Crushing of Sugarcane on the Sugar Price

97. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether crushing of sugarcane started late in this crushing season as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it will have any impact on the production and price of sugar; and

(d) what is the estimate of sugar production for the current season ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The number of