

"Smuggling of Goods from India to China"

- *578. {
 Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:
 Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
 Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
 Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Gulshan:
 Shri H. V. Koujalgi:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in the Republic Day Special number of 'Blitz' that rice, sugar, gur and cement are being smuggled from India to China on a widespread scale; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent it?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu): (a) and (b). The Government's attention has been drawn to this news item, but the report that rice, sugar, gur and cement are being smuggled from India to China on a widespread scale is not correct. All border check posts have been alerted and the situation is being kept under close watch.

Food Plan

- *579. {
 Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri P. G. Sen:
 Shri Ram Sewak:
 Shri Krishnapal Singh:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 Dr. Chandrabhan Singh:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a separate plan for agricultural production both at Central

and State levels in order to give more impetus to the agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is under consideration.

State Electricity Boards

- *580. {
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Daji:
 Shri Mohammad Elias:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the appointment of members of the State Electricity Boards by the State Governments concerned has been made by the Government of India in terms of Section 5 of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948;

(b) if so, whether the existing provisions of the Electricity Supply Act are considered adequate to take care of the present rate of power development; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to amend the above Act to deal with the present power development programme?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) to (c). The State Governments have constituted the State Electricity Boards keeping in view the provisions of Section 5 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The Government of India have not carried out any review in this connection so far. The question of amending the Act is under consideration to overcome some working difficulties and to incorporate the recommendations made by the Venkataraman Committee. At this time suitable amendments to Section 5 will also be considered.