

answered. The Minister has answered it.

SHRI SATYADEO SINGH: Sir, my question is why you are saying to clear the dues within three months time in respect of the last crushing season. Why do not you make it early. When are you going to make payment in respect of the dues of the last season, why you are taking three months time in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not coming to specific question, rather you are repeating it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at that time B.J.P. was in power in U.P. Why should I pay for your deeds. I have given my word that dues of farmers pending for more than three months will be paid. I know I will have to pay for the deeds of your Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: What have you done by increasing the prices of sugar produced during the reign of our Government?.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK ANDANDRAO DESHMUKH (Prabhani): The Central Government has fixed sugarcane price at Rs. 31 whereas many a State Governments are paying Rs. 46 to 50 per quintal to their farmers. Why this differencede? I want to know, why the prices fixed by the Agricultural Price Commission is different from the one fixed by the State Agricultural Price Commission. What are the reasons for this? Secondly, what rate the norms for deciding the price by the Agricultural price Commission.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agriculture Cost and Price Commission every year fixes the price of sugarcane crop. This year it fixed the price at Rs. 29 but due

to an increase in the price of wheat and rice the minimum price was fixed as Rs. 31. Now the State Governments fix their price statewise as ours is federal system. If a Chief Minister of a States fixes the price of sugarcane at Rs. 50 per quintal then we cannot do much about it.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, I want to know whether the arrears given are the arrears of a particular year or are accumulated arrears, What are the arrears of the previous years? If the problem is so chronic, then what Government is proposing to save the farmers from the clutches of the sugar mill owners?

MR. SPEAKER: He has taken the responsibility.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Publick Distribution System

*104. **SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW:** Will the the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding supply of poor quality foodgrains under the Public Distribution System during 1992-93 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to ensure supply of standard quality of foodgrains and check their diversion from the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DIS-

TRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Central Government issues rice and wheat, conforming to specifications prescribed by the Government and within the standards prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, to State Governments and U.T. Administrations for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. Opportunity is provided to them for inspection of stocks before actual delivery. Stocks not conforming to standards prescribed can be rejected by the State Government/UT Administrations.

The actual distribution of PDS commodities to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops is administered by the State Governments and UT Administrations. No major complaints regarding bad quality of rice or wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System have been received by the Central Government from the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

During April, 1992 to January, 1993, a total quantity of 7.8 million tonnes of rice and 6.5 million tonnes of wheat have been distributed to the States/UTs for PDS. In a vast operation of this magnitude a few shortcomings, cannot be ruled out, altogether. However the Central Government has requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to tighten supervision to ensure proper functioning of the PDS. State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to set up village/Fair Price Shop level Vigilance Committees of consumers for this purpose. They also take action under the Essential Commodities Act to check malpractices.

Tribal Culture and Heritage

*105. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure that tribal culture and heritage do not degrade on account of industrialization in the tribal belt;

(b) the amount apportioned and spent so far in 1992-93 for preservation and promotion of the tribal culture and heritage; and

(c) whether any evaluation has been made about the projects so funded; and

(d) if so, the outcome; thereof

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Ministry of Welfare has a centrally sponsored scheme "Research and Training" to provide funds to State Govt. on 50:50 basis to Tribal Research Institutes. These institutions have various activities including the preservation of Tribal art and culture, to ensure that there is no degradation of Tribal Culture and Art.

(b) An amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been allocated in the Department of Culture to carry out the work of preservation and promotion of the tribal culture and heritage during 1992-93. Out of this an amount of Rs. 14.94 lakhs has been spent so far.

Apart from this a sum of Rs. 104.00 lakhs out of the budget provision of Rs. 105.00 lakhs has so far been released by the Ministry of Welfare.