

[*Translation*]**Production of Sugarcane**

+

\*282. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
DR. RAMKRISHNA  
KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of sugarcane in the country during 1992-93, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government propose to formulate any programme for providing more technical know-how to the farmers, especially of Uttar Pradesh, to boost the

production of sugarcane; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**STATEMENT**

(a) The final estimates of production of sugarcane for 1992-93 have not yet become due from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the likely production of sugarcane during 1992-93 in major growing States is as under:-

*(In lakh tonnes)*

<i>State</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Production</i>
Andhra Pradesh	130.2	Bihar	75.0
Gujarat	98.9	Haryana	80.0
Karnataka	180.0	Maharashtra	305.0
Orissa	45.0	Punjab	73.5
Tamilnadu	192.0	Uttar Pradesh	1054.0
Others	66.4	All-India	2300.0

(b) and (c). Technical know-how for increasing the production of sugarcane is being provided by Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Cane Development Department of Uttar Pradesh, State Agricultural Universities of Uttar Pradesh and Sugar Mills through Sugar Development Fund. The Government of India is also formulating a National Scheme on Sugarcane Development for various States including Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is likely to include supply of quality seeds, intensive plant protection, measure, Demonstration of new Technology of Sugarcane, improving ra-

toon cultivation and training of farmers and extension workers for quick transfer of technologies in sugarcane production.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the National Scheme on Sugarcane Development formulated by the Government is likely to be announced and the time by which it will be implemented.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: The scheme

about which the hon. Member has pointed out is still under consideration and a decision in this regard will be taken very soon.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you mean by very soon? How long will it take to be decided?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Since it involves Planning Commission, Ministry of Food and Ministry of Agriculture, all will decide it after mutual consultations.

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to my first question is not satisfactory. The hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that there is the highest production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the ratio between the number of sugar factories set up there and the production of sugarcane in the state is proper. The licences for more than 50 sugar factories to be set up in Uttar Pradesh are lying pending and these have not been cleared. Is it not affecting the production of sugarcane? How long would you take to clear these factories?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh is not sufficient. But the work for setting up of sugar mills comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Food. Only that Ministry can take a decision in this regard.

[English]

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Is it a fact that in the name of sugarcane development, funds are collected in crores of rupees, but as the Committee does not sanction and disburse the same, crores of rupees have been diverted to other Departments instead of giving it to the sugarcane development.

Moreover, for want of fertiliser, sugarcane cannot be developed and the farmers cannot purchase the fertilisers because of the high cost. Will the hon. Minister reconsider to give subsidy to reduce the cost of fertilisers?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: This Sugar Development Fund is under the Ministry of Food.

MR. SPEAKER: This is on technology for the sugarcane factories.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture because he is an advocate for farmers and he is a Kisan Pandit too. With his efforts, there has been considerable increase in the production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh. But now the production is going down. The reason for the decrease in production is that 37 per cent of total produce is sent to mills, and the remaining sugarcane is sent to crushers. As a result the farmers get only half the price of the rest of the sugarcane. Besides, the sugar mills are run till May or June. With the result, the crop of sugarcane withers in the field itself. The capacity of mostly sugar mills is 12 or 800 tonnes. The farmers do not get the cost of sugarcane. That is why the farmers having been discouraged, have reduced sowing the sugarcane now. This year, there has been less production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh as compared to the last year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for it because he is a sympathiser of farmers. Sugarcane department oversees the production of sugarcane but licences are given to the mills by Food Department and....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mishraji, it is related to technology in order to increase the production of sugarcane.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: The hon. Minister is my advocate. That is why I request him to ask the Food Department and the Government of India to increase the number of sugar mills and provide timely remunerative prices of sugarcane to farmers so that farmers could be benefited.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sir, he is

our advocate. I may say so that it is not a technical matter. This is his property. His property is being ruined by the Department of Food. That is why I want that he should plead the case.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production of sugarcane has been increasing for the last six years. It has not been reduced. This is the first year when there has been a little shortfall in the production of sugarcane. The reason is that sowing of crops has been reduced by 6 per cent and last year the production of sugarcane was in abundance. Consequently, its crushing has been continued beyond the scheduled time. He is right in his statement that much sugarcane was not crushed. You have just mentioned 37 per cent and I say it is on the high side. It is not 37 per cent but it is only 32 per cent. This is the factual position. Now the question arises as to what ratio we should have for the production of sugarcane, how much sugarcane we want to produce. How much sugar we want to produce? How can we provide remunerative prices to the farmers. That is why we have asked the Ministry of Food to hold a meeting and solve the problems.

Not only some of your applications are lying pending but a large number of applications from Maharashtra is also pending. Last year crop was the best when 250 million tonne of sugarcane was produced and it has been increasing for the last six years. In Uttar Pradesh, there has been an increase of 10 per cent in the production of sugarcane. You may imagine the speed of increase. Now I would like to tell you that there has been an increase of 10 per cent during the last six years from 1986 to 1991. It has not been decreased during the last six years. It has been going on increasing. This is the first year when there has been a shortfall. I have already explained the reason.

I also agree with the views of the hon. Member Shri Tope Sahib from Maharashtra that there has been a great demand for setting up sugar mills. But we have to ponder over it. If we produce excess sugar then

other items will be affected. The farmer also wants money. If we produce sugar in abundance, it will create a problem. If there is a shortfall in production, it harms the farmers. Therefore, there must be a ratio between demand and supply so that farmers could not be harmed.

Secondly, foodgrains are also to be produced. It is a 100 per cent irrigated crop. It consumes maximum water. We agree with you that mills should purchase the entire quantity of sugarcane. If we prepare 'Khandsari' we get loss. Besides this the percentage production of Khandsari is also less. Recovery is also less and the farmers get less money.

[*English*]

All these things have to be sorted out in this manner.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Would you like to plead the case?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Yes, I will plead the case firmly.

[*English*]

SHRI AKBER PASHA: Sir, the price of sugar has gone up, prices of fertilizers have gone up. In Tamil Nadu, there has been only a marginal increase of Rs. 30 per tonne. I feel that it has got to be considered for enhancement of sugarcane in the interest of the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: You please understand that this question relates to sugar technology and nothing else.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the latest position of the fifteen sugar factories

which had been sanctioned last year for Uttar Pradesh. The sugarcane is getting spoiled there.

MR. SPEAKER: Please see, this question relates to sugar technology and you are asking a question relating to licence.

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Factories having new technology have been sanctioned. Please explain it.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will plead their case with the Ministry of Food.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of sugar technology.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: First you should listen to my question. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in Uttar Pradesh particularly in eastern U.P. lakhs of acres of farren land lying unutilised. Supply of some fertilisers can push up the production of sugarcane. And the hon. Minister was saying that there has been a shortfall in production of sugarcane in eastern U.P. for the last five six years.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will disallow the question if it does not relate to the main question.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, it has increased by ten percent while the fact is that in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and in various other parts of the State the production of sugarcane has declined. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether this barren land which is not in use would be brought under sugarcane cultivation and with the help of laboratory tests and chemical fertilisers the production would be in-

creased.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production of sugarcane is directly related to irrigated land while the hon. Member is talking about the barren land. Unless the arrangements of irrigation are made, the production of sugarcane will not be feasible. Therefore, the barren land can be utilised in other way. I think that it will not be wise to produce sugarcane in such a way.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether good quality of sugarcane seeds are not being made available in time in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to farmers. New varieties of sugarcane have been developed which gets ready within eight months and which gives nine to ten percent sugar content. Such seeds are not being supplied in time. Secondly, the sugarcane development councils at various places are not functioning properly due to the paucity of funds. Consequently, the farmers are unaware of the good seeds and advanced techniques. What steps are being taken to set all these things right?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, constant endeavour is being made by the Central Government to distribute good quality seeds to all the states. The utilisation of the seeds depends on the State Government, the agriculture department or the sugarcane department. If the hon. Members would like to know, why all these things could not be done in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, then as far as I know it is not true. I think the seeds were made available and they were also properly utilised.

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: The sugarcane technology is a very important subject. In this country, we cannot compete in the international market because of low standard of production in India as compared to other countries. In the Eighth Five Year Plan, the rural development has been provided. Rs. 30000 lakhs. Has, the Government any proposal to start any institution for the tech-

nology development in the rural areas?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, it has been the endeavour of the Government to maximise production of sugarcane so that the cost of production at the national and international level may come down. The Government is making efforts in this direction.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to set up some institution for development of sugarcane technology?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: There are a number of such institutions and we are strengthening them. At present there are such institutions in almost every State, which are working in this direction.

[*English*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: At present, the technical know-how for increasing the production of sugarcane in the country is being provided by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Cane Development Department of Uttar Pradesh, State Agricultural Universities of Uttar Pradesh, and sugar mills through Sugarcane Development Fund (SDF).

All this is being done and we are doing something much more than that. For your information, I may inform you that the following strategy has been suggested to increase the production of sugarcane in the country.

- (1) Increase production and availability of disease free quality seeds of new improved varieties and covering large area under above seeds to improve yields.
- (2) Adopting intensive plant protection measures, while emphasising on adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Emphasis will be laid on plant protection measures mostly in areas where incidence of

diseases and pest cause decrease in sucrose content.

- (3) Demonstration of new technologies of sugarcane production including ratoon Management, use of micro-nutrients, proper water management etc.
- (4) Inter-cropping of sugarcane with other suitable crops such as sunflower, soyabean, wheat, repeseed/mustard.
- (5) To improve the yield of ratoon crop in mill and non-mill areas.
- (6) Training of the farmers and extension personnels on technologies in sugarcane production.

And we are trying to put up Krishi Vigyan Kendra% (KVKs) where we want to give technical know-how to our farmers for seven weeks, three weeks or for three months period, so that they might have the latest technology at their disposal. And we have to do something much more than that to increase the efficiency of sugar mills. At present, they are having old technologies. We want to have something new which will give more yield. Sugar must become a by product and sugar itself should not be the only product. It should become a by-product giving some other thing so that it becomes more remunerative to the farmers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir. though the hon. Minister has said that technical know-how for sugarcane development is being provided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Sugarcane Development Board of Uttar Pradesh, the state Agriculture Universities the Sugar Development fund, the fact is that sugarcane Development Board is unable to give any information to the farmers in this regard, Out of the total sugarcane produced in the country, fifty percent is produced by Uttar Pradesh alone. I would like to know from the

hon. Minister if something is being done for the sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh, to provide them the technical knowledge by setting up Sugarcane Research Board or Research Centre in Uttar Pradesh under the National Scheme. If it is so, what is the proposed plan of action of the hon. Minister?

[English]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: In Uttar Pradesh, there are three institutions which are doing this job. There is no problem in that.

[Translation]

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister belongs to Punjab. The sugarcane growers in Punjab are suffering loss while the Government sugar mills claim that they have to suffer the loss by purchasing the sugarcane. So, should sugarcane not be grown.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a highly technical question.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will have to ask the State Government about it. The efficiency of the mill management will have to be monitored and if need be they will have to be pulled up for lapses. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SABHANADRSWAR RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire scenario of the sugar production can be changed drastically in Uttar Pradesh. In the answer, the Minister has stated that Uttar Pradesh produces nearly 47 per cent of the total sugar production. But is it not a fact that there is a low yield per hectare, that is 45 tonnes per hectare when compared with Tamil Nadu's 100 per cent yield and Maharashtra's 92 per cent yield and conse-

quent low yield of sugar per hectare of only 4.3 tonnes as against 10 tonnes of yield per hectare in Maharashtra?

One of the basic reasons is that till now, 20 per cent of the sugarcane producing area in Uttar Pradesh is not having the irrigation facilities. In view of this fact, will the Government take all possible steps to provide irrigation facilities just like in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and in all other States where 100 per cent irrigation facilities are there? Uttar Pradesh is having only 85 per cent irrigation facilities. So, will the Government take adequate steps to provide funds from the rural developmental programmes to provide irrigation facilities to sugarcane growers there?

MR. SPEAKER: We have Irrigation Ministry for this purpose.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There the production is much more. There the period is ten to fifteen months and this crop takes eight to nine months. That is the problem; that takes more maturing period and more water is needed. I think we have to concentrate on the conservation of water in this respect. I am trying to convey it to the extension services that these things should be done on drip irrigation basis, so that we save water. You are using too much of water. The other crops go dry because of that. We must conserve water, we must take to other crops also.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, many factories are lying closed in Maharashtra due to drought and the low production of sugarcane. Will the Government provide aid and loan for the sugarcane development and consider setting up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Marathwada?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: The hon. lady Member has said that the sugarcane production has gone down but as far as I know there is not a steep fall in the sugarcane production. We will also consider setting up of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra.