

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Agricultural Production in Eastern Region

*290. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any special schemes in the Eastern region of the country for increasing the agricultural production in view of low growth rate of agriculture in that region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have evaluated the impact of the said schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Government of India had launched a Special Rice Production Programme during 1985-86 in Eastern Region, which was merged with Special Foodgrains Production Programme (Rice) and is now termed as Integrated Programme for Rice Development. Besides, Special Foodgrains Production Programme on Maize and Millets, Wheat, Pulses and Special Jute Development Programme are being implemented in identified States of the country including Eastern region for increasing productivity and production of relevant crops. Several other programmes for increasing the agricultural production (like Intensive Cotton Development Programme, National Pulses Development Programme, Oilseeds Production Programme and National watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, etc.) are being implemented in the country, including the States in the Eastern Region.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, The impact of

implementation of these schemes in the region has been reviewed by the Government. The schemes have helped in increasing productivity and production of the relevant crops in the region.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

*291. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the country which have started production in the current season;

(b) the number of sugar mills lying closed at present and the remedial measures adopted for reviving them; and

(c) the target fixed for sugar production during the current crushing season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) 386 sugar mills were in production as on 31.1.93 during the current season 1992-93 (October-September).

(b) 28 sugar mills have not gone into production as on 31.1.93 during the current season 1992-93 (October-September). The measure taken by the Government in this regard are as follows:

- i) A new sugar policy has been formulated with a view to improving the financial viability of sugar mills.
- ii) State Governments have been directed to assess the reasons for the non-functioning of these mills and to take appropriate action to ensure commencement of their operations.
- iii) State Governments have also been directed that in case of delay in commencement of operations due to unavoidable reasons, arrangements be