

So far as sugar is concerned, the system of dual pricing is in vogue; and normally the Central Government does not release any subsidy for sugar through the Public Distribution System.

So far as Kerosene and LPG are concerned, the prices of Kerosene have not been increased since 1991 and LPG since January 1994. During 1994-95 the estimated burden of subsidy has gone up by Rs. 118 crores as compared to 1993-94 on the Oil Industry Pool Account.

(d) Strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System is a continuous process. The Operational responsibility for distribution of PDS Commodities is that of the State Government.

#### Indo-China Agreement

\*398. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has urged the China to cooperate in Agriculture;

(b) if so, whether China has accepted the Indian offer;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details of the agreement signed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) to (d). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and China in Beijing on 11 April, 1992 with the objectives of enhancing scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture. A Work Plan to give effect to the Memorandum of Understanding, has also been signed between the two countries which is valid upto 31st December, 1995.

The MoU includes the following :

- (i) Exchange of scientific and technical information and materials.
- (ii) Exchange of germ-plasm, seeds, seedlings and breeding materials.
- (iii) Exchange of trainees, delegations of scientists and specialists.
- (iv) Joint agricultural research programmes.
- (v) Exchange of results of research and experiments.
- (vi) Organisation of lectures, workshops, symposia and exhibitions etc.

#### Subsidy in Transport Costs

\*399. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to withdraw subsidy in transport costs of moving fertilizers and mass items of consumption;

(b) the present amount of subsidy on above items per year; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Railways have been transporting some commodities of mass consumption below the cost of operation. The estimated loss incurred by the Railways on this account for the year 1994-95 is Rs. 142.38 crores.

#### Survival Rate of Plantation

\*400. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :  
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any evaluation has ever been made as how many saplings are able to survive after the second or third year of their plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no body to see whether the saplings so planted do survive or not after two to three years or even after one year of their plantation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have their own systems and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the survival rate of plantations. The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as the Central Nodal Agency for Point number 16 under the Twenty Point Programme, commissions survival rate studies of the plantations through independent experts, organisations and institutions. These studies are undertaken in about 50 randomly selected districts in the country in a year. Details of the survival rate studies for the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given in the Statements-I and II enclosed. These studies show that though there are location-wise, species-wise variations in survival percentages of trees, the general survival rate of plantations after one year of planting varies from 55% to 80%.

State Forest Departments monitor the survival rate up to the third year after the planting and undertake casualty replacements as required.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.