

ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The supply of tractors is both through indigenous manufacture and imports. The manufacturers and the importers have a number of dealers under them throughout the country and supply of tractors to each dealer is at their discretion. The information required is not readily available and, besides, the position with regard to supply changes so rapidly that the position obtaining at any time would not be valid shortly thereafter. The availability of tractors would fluctuate not only in different periods of time but also at different places. It can, however, be stated that there is a large unsatisfied demand for tractors, particularly for the low horse power tractors imported from the U.S.S.R. and some popular models manufactured in the country.

(c) The production of tractors in the country is being stepped up with a view to meet the demand and the existing manufacturers are being assisted in expanding their production. Efforts are also being made to import tractors against the current year's demand.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

1212. SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide incentives and popularise sugar production in the sugarcane growing area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Government have announced the following measures to maximise sugar production during 1967-68.

- (1) the minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories has been increased from Rs. 5.68 per quintal in 1966-67 to Rs. 7.37 per quintal in 1967-68, linked to a recovery of 9.4 per cent or less. The premium for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above 9.4 per cent has also been increased from 4 Paise to 5.36 Paise per quintal;

- (2) The factories will be permitted to sell about 40 per cent of their production in the free market subject to periodical releases by Government;
- (3) a rebate of 50 per cent in the basic excise duty will be allowed on sugar produced during 1967-68 which is in excess of 80 per cent of the production during the corresponding period in 1966-67; and
- (4) the excise duty on sugar produced in 1967-68 will be reduced by Rs. 8.35 per quintal.

The above measures are expected to enable the sugar factories to pay a much higher price for cane than the minimum fixed by the Government and to purchase their requirements in competition with gur and khandsari and thereby increase the production of sugar.

FISHERIES PROJECT

1213. SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a large-scale fisheries project with the aid of the World Bank;

(b) whether Government have received any representation to locate the project in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The feasibility of obtaining assistance of the World Bank for development of deep sea fishing is being examined in consultation with the Food & Agricultural Organisation.

The assistance of the World Bank, if available, will be in the form of allotment of foreign exchange to the Government of India. Any deep sea fishing projects which may be undertaken will be financed out of the Plan resources, the relative extent of Central and State participation being determined in accordance with the nature of