

fund should be created to which co-operatives also should be required to contribute; (g) there should be uniform price for cane in the State at least region-wise; and (h) in future, thorough and proper assessment of sugar cane availability should be made before a licence is recommended for establishment of a sugar factory.

The Government of India have brought the report of the Study Team to the notice of the Government of Maharashtra who are primarily concerned with the recommendations.

**Directives to States to check rise in prices**

1490-B. SHRI P. M MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any directive to the State Governments to check rise in prices;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) how many States have taken action in the matter; and

(d) to what extent these measures have checked the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A C GEORGE): (a) to (d). Before the presentation of the Budget for 1976-77, States were advised to observe the budget month as the 'Month of Vigilance' for ensuring availability of essential commodities at fair prices. On June 15, 1976, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Cooperation wrote to all Chief Ministers/Governors urging upon them to take appropriate

steps against hoarders, black markets and other anti-social elements with a view to ensuring that their undesirable activities do not lead to increase in prices. Subsequently, instructions were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on July 16, 1976 to State Governments and Union Territories Administrations to be vigilant and to take stringent action against hoarders etc. including the use of MISA and DISIR wherever necessary. State Governments responded to the guidelines of the Centre and have intensified enforcement measures. These measures have helped to check rise in prices.

**Suggestion to take over control of essential commodities for distribution to vulnerable section**

1490-C. SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has suggested to the Centre to take over control of a percentage of the essential commodities for distribution to the vulnerable sections at a reasonable price; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The Government of India is not aware of this suggestion.

(b) The question does not arise.