

Sugar quota to Shareholders of Sugar Factory

1877. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar supplied to the State of Andhra Pradesh during last one year; and

(b) whether any quota of sugar is given to the shareholders of sugar factories at controlled rate?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Andhra Pradesh State is being allotted a monthly quota of levy sugar of 14,145 tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

Staying Power of Farmer

1878. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-YAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government or are under their consideration with a view to equipping the producers of agricultural crops with staying power so as to ensure that they are not compelled to surrender to distress sale?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): The warehouses set-up under the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 by the Central and the State Warehousing Corporations ensure availability of scientific warehousing facilities for the benefit, amongst others, of producers and save them from making distress sale, by providing credit on the pledge of the stocks of agricultural commodities etc. covered by the warehouse receipts.

2. Under the Save Grain Campaign scheme launched by Government of India, simple but effective techniques of preservation and storage of food-grains are made known to the farmers, through training, demonstration, publicity etc. Loans are also advanced to

State Governments for fabrication of small size metal bins for being made available to farmers on easy credit basis; this improves the holding capacity of the farmers.

Steps for Growth of Wild Life

1879. SHRI UGRASEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wild life is shrinking in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for the survival, safety and growth of wild life in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). While certain species of wildlife appear to be shrinking on account of loss of habitat through growing population and developmental pressures, a number of other wildlife species have increased as a result of various protective measures taken in recent years.

(c) Some of the important measures taken in recent years for the survival, safety and growth of wildlife in the country are as follows:--

(1) With the enactment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 1972, which has now been adopted by all but two States, special legal protection has been given to the endangered species from exploitation and stringent punishment provided for infringement of the provisions of the Act.

(2) Export trade of most of the threatened species has been controlled, particularly since India became a party in 1976 to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

(3) The habitat in which wildlife can prosper is being increased by constituting larger areas as national parks and sanctuaries where all possible protection is being afforded