

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to maintain the prices of agricultural produce so that the price level does not shoot high thereby adversely affecting the agriculturist; and

(c) whether in achieving the above objective, Government would ensure that the economic interests and welfare of the agriculturist are not sacrificed ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The value of marketable surplus of agricultural produce constitutes the basis for constructing the weighting diagram of Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (Base 1970-71=100).

(b) and (c) While fixing the support prices of agricultural commodities, Government takes into consideration several factors including the interests of producers and consumers. The issue prices of cereals supplied through public distribution system are subsidised by the Government in the interest of the consumers. Further, to keep the prices under check steps are taken to increase production, maintain buffer stocks of foodgrains and arrange imports and restrict exports when required, to augment domestic availability.

Production of Foodgrains in 1984

377. **SHRI G.G. SWELL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of foodgrains production during the year 1984 in the country ;

(b) the total cultivated area ;

(c) how does it compare with the Chinese production of last year and the total Chinese land under cultivation ; and

(d) whether government have made a study in regard to the difference and come to same conclusions ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement giving area and production of foodgrains in India during 1983-84 and in China during 1983 (latest available from FAO Production Year Book in the case of latter) is given below :-

Area—Million hectares

Production—Million tonnes

Crop	India (1983-84)		China (1983)*	
	Cropped Area	Production	Cropped Area	Production
Cereals	106.94	138.89	94.54	343.73
Pluses	23.41	12.65	4.88	6.04
Foodgrains	130.35	151.54	99.42	349.77

*FAO estimate

In case of China, cereals include paddy (unhusked). In the Indian Official statistics given above cereals include paddy in terms of cleaned rice (excluding husk)

(d) According to an assessment made by ICAR, it is observed that productivity

in China is more than that in India due to :

i) more irrigated area

ii) intensive agricultural practices

iii) application of integrated pest management

- iv) timely operations
- v) extensive inter and multiple cropping systems
- vi) application of more organic fertilisers; and
- vii) quick transfer of technology mechanism.

Further the average rate of application of chemical fertilisers in China is about 121 Kgs. per hectare as compared to 35 Kgs. per hectare in India during 1981-82. Similarly, area under machine cultivation in China has gone up to 45 million hectares. It is because of these reasons that the productivity in China is higher than that in India

Setting up of a Garbage Plant in New Delhi

378. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he inaugurated a garbage plant in New Delhi ;
- (b) the cost of the plant, its capacity, the price at which the fertilizer will be available to the consumers ; and
- (c) whether additionally he is considering hydroponics as a means of augmenting vegetable production in Delhi and other big cities ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee has set up the compost plant at a cost of Rs. 191.47 lakhs including the cost of infrastructure to feed the plant. The plant has a capacity to process 200 tonnes of raw garbage per day. At present, the compost is available at a cost of Rs. 40/- per tonne plus Rs. 2/- per tonne as loading charges, ex-factory gate.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Arrears to Cane Growers

380. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Bitter sugar for Champaran Cane-growers' in the Patriot dated February 8, 1985 reporting that huge arrears amounting to around Rs. 26 crores due to 10 lakh cane growers of the Champaran district has accumulated against the nine sugar mills in the area since 1982 and 1983 ;

(b) If so, whether Government have collected official figures about the extent of latest sugarcane arrears in this area and other sugar growing areas, if so, the details thereof indicating the arrears, in the beginning of each year since 1982 added and cleared during each year ; and

(c) The steps Government propose to take to ensure clearance of dues to sugar cane growers year to year ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The position of cane price dues against sugar mills in the Champaran District and other areas of Bihar from the beginning of the 1982-83 season upto 31.1.85 is given in the statement attached.

(c) Ensuring payment of cane price arrears is the direct responsibility of the State Governments, who have the necessary field organisations and powers to enforce such payments. The Central Government monitors the position and issues directions to State Governments, from time to time for expeditious clearance of cane price arrears. The State Governments have been advised to keep a watch on cane price payments from the beginning of the season itself. Check on malpractices by mills also has to be ensured by the State Government concerned.

The Central Government, on its part, has been taking steps aimed at improving the liquidity of the industry to enable it to pay the cane dues. The steps taken over the last 2-3 years include liberalisation of bank credit facilities, reduction in bank margins on credit against sugar stocks, change in the method of valuation of sugar stocks to the benefit of