

Closure of Sugar Mill in Jamunanagar

914. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a private mill was closed on January 17 in Jamunanagar after the growers refused to bring the cane for crushing;

(b) if so, the main reasons for closure of sugar mill;

(c) whether the mill was closed due to the demand of the farmers for an increase in cane price;

(d) if so, whether, Government has taken steps to increase the cane prices;

(e) the other demands that are being considered by the Government; and

(f) whether the farmers' agitation has greatly affected the suger production in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The crushing operations were, however, resumed on 26th January, 1985.

(b) and (c). The growers, who were demanding higher cane price, stopped supplying cane to the sugar mill.

(d) The Central Government fixes only the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories and no factory can pay a price less than this. This price is uniform for all the States. The actual prices paid are decided mutually by the growers and the producers of sugar, wherein State Government may help in arriving at the agreed price.

(e) There is not demand under the consideration of the Central Government.

(f) The State Government ensures that all the available cane in the mill area is crushed before it finally closes down for the season. As such sugar production on account of the closure of the mills from January 17 to 25 is not likely to affect production.

Export of Wheat

915. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to export wheat during financial year 1985-86;

(b) if so, the total quantity of wheat proposed to be exported;

(c) whether any other foodgrains are also proposed to be exported; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d). The export policy for the year 1985-86 has yet to be announced.

Supply of Poor Quality Wheat by F. C. I.

916. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been complaints that the Food Corporation of India has supplied poor quality wheat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). A few complaints about the quality of wheat issued to roller flour mills have been received. All allottees are allowed to inspect and satisfy themselves about the quality of wheat before taking delivery from the FCI godowns, and a certificate to that effect is also obtained from the allottees. Before delivery, the FCI also inspects the stocks to ensure that they conform to the prescribed standards.

Setting up of Soyabean Research Institute

917. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :