

Import of More Sugar in Addition to Already Planned

1008. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of poor carry-over stock and prospectes of lower production during 1984-85 sugar season, the Union Government would resort to more imports of sugar in addition to the import of 5 lakh tonnes already planned, in order to keep the sugar prices under check as well as to maintain a minimum level of buffer stock; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The carryover of sugar with the factories as on 1-10-1984 was about 23.75 lakh tonnes. As regards the sugar production in the current 1984-85 season, the production upto 7th March has reached 45.17 lakh tonnes as against 43.13 lakh tonnes upto the same date in 1983-84 season. Since the crushing operations are still in progress with a large number of factories still operating, it is rather difficult to estimate with any degree of precision the extent of shortfalls etc. if any, at this stage.

Besides five lakh tonnes of sugar contracted for import in sugar year 1983-84, some imports of sugar have been contracted by the State Trading Corporation for supply during the current year.

Consumption of Fertilizers

1009. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumption of fertilizer in the country has recorded any increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, the States which have shown improvement;

(c) if not, the reasons for lack of growth in the consumption rate;

(d) whether the hike in price of

fertilizer is one of the reason for the same; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The consumption of fertilizer in the country has increased from about 64 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 to an estimated level of about 84 lakh tonnes of nutrients in 1984-85, and thus, registering a growth rate of about 31 per cent.

(b) and (c). There has been growth in fertilizer consumption in all the States except Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur. Since the consumption of fertilizers depends on a combination of several factors like weather conditions, availability and price etc., it would be difficult to clearly delineate anyone as being exclusively responsible for the shortfalls. However, the lower rates of consumption in these two States were mainly attributable to weather aberrations.

(d) and (e). Price of fertilizers would have certain bearing on the consumption of fertilizers. With a view to induce the farmers to use fertilizers, the Government of India reduced the price of all varieties of fertilizers in June, 1983 by 7½% and also allowed a further rebate of 10 per cent on stocks lying for over two years with Food Corporation of India.

Reopening of Industries Under Lockout

1010. SHRI AJOY BISWAS :

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small, medium and large scale industries in the country (State-wise) which are under lockout and closure till today;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to reopen those mills;

(c) the State-wise number of such units re-opened during January and February, 1985; and

(d) the number of workers out of employment due to closure and lockout of such units ?