

foundation stone of which was laid about 18 months back ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) Organisations like the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute and Kerala Public Health Engineering Department have conducted studies for providing safe and potable drinking water to the people of Lakshadweep Islands. Based on such studies, schemes are being taken up for the provision of drinking water in the Islands. The first phase of the Kavratti Water Supply Project has been approved for execution and land acquisition proceedings for the project are presently in progress. The Bitra Island Scheme involves the use of a solar desalination plant. For the remaining Islands the schemes involve the extraction of ground water from radial collector wells and supply after treatment.

Shortage and high price of sugar

2056. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government have decided to release 4 Lakh tonnes of sugar for free sale for the month of November, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the shortage and high price of sugar continued in the open market during the months of October and November, 1985;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the continued shortage and high price; and

(d) what further remedial steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) With the release of 4.00 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar for each of the months of October and November,

1985, sufficient availability of sugar in open market at reasonable rates was ensured.

(d) In order to augment the availability of sugar for internal consumption, it was decided to import 19.5 lakh tonnes of sugar for arrival during the period from May, 1985 to February, 1986. The Government have also taken various steps to increase domestic production which include payment of remunerative cane price to the growers by the sugar factories.

Production of milk powder

2057. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) total quantity of milk powder produced in the year 1985 till 1 October, 1985;

(b) the number of milk powder producing units gone into production in the year 1985; and

(c) the number of milk powder producing units in private Sector and co-operative sector, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The figure relating to total production of milk powder in the year 1985 till 1 October, 1985 is not available. However, the estimated total production of milk powder including infant milk food during the year 1984 was of the order of 95,600 metric tonnes.

(b) and (c) Five milk drying plants were additionally brought under coverage of Operation Flood during the calendar year 1985 (till September, 1985). No new milk drying plant in the private sector was commissioned during 1985.

Damage to F.C.I. foodgrains stock due to rains

2058. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :
SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :