

Cornering of Sugarcane by Co-Operative Sugar Factories In Maharashtra

5398. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that sugar factories in Maharashtra particularly co-operative sugar factories have accumulated/cornered huge stocks of sugarcane;

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in short supply of sugarcane to private sugar factories; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) As per the information received from the State Government, there is no accumulation/cornering of huge stocks of sugarcane by co-operative sugar factories.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, do not arise.

Financial assistance by nationalised banks to Housing Boards

5399. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present guidelines on housing finance to commercial banks do not permit them to extend financial assistance to the Housing Boards for purchase of house sites; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to facilitate nationalised banks to provide adequate financial assistance to the Housing Boards by giving bulk loans for land acquisition and development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) House sites are considered as infrastr-

structure facilities, investments for which will have to be financed by State Governments/Housing Boards out of their own resources. Basically, banks meet short-term requirements of industrial and other sectors and are expected to keep their involvement in term lending within reasonable limits. Housing finance is long-term in character. Even so, banks are lending for house construction activities by way of direct finance to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, economically weaker sections, low income groups and others including HDFC and as indirect finance through subscriptions to bonds/debentures of HUDCO, State Housing Boards, etc.

Setting up of National Sugar Institute in Andhra Pradesh

5400. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish a National Sugar Institute on the same lines as the one in Kanpur, in any one of the Southern States;

(b) if so, whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for establishment of such an institute at Mirzapur in Medak District, Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Union Government officials visited that place in 1983;

(d) if so, when the institute is likely to be established at Mirzapur, Medak District; and

(e) if not, whether Government will now consider and establish the institute in Andhra Pradesh, the third biggest sugar producing State in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The approved 7th Plan outlay does not include any provision for establishing a National Sugar Institute on the same lines

as the one in Kanpur.

(b) and (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had suggested the setting-up of a sugar institute in that State and also that a Committee consisting of an officer of the State Government and Directors of National Sugar Institute, Kanpur and Deccan Sugar Institute, Pune may be constituted for preparing a Project Report. After a visit to Hyderabad and Medak District by officers of the Central Government in 1983, the State Government was informed that there was no objection to the State Government constituting the Committee as proposed. Subsequently the State Government suggested that such a Committee may be constituted by the Central Government themselves.

(d) and (e) No decision has been taken to set up a new sugar institute during the 7th Five Year Plan.

Import of technology for sucrose

5401. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow import of technology for sucrose (sugar from maize and other crops) in view of the fact that the consumption of (sugar) is increasing in the world; and

(b) if so, the number of applications received so far by Government for import of technology and the number out of them cleared during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Sucrose is not available in Maize and similar other crops and it cannot be therefore produced from these crops. The question of allowing import of technology for the purpose does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of sucrose from Maize, Jawar and others crops

5402. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to produce sweetening agents (sucrose) from Maize, Jawar and other crops ;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sucrose is not available in Maize, Jawar and similar other crops. As such, it cannot be produced from these crops.

Areas under tea plantation

5403. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total hectares of land in the country which was proposed to be brought under tea plantation in 1985-86;

(b) the hectares of land so far brought under tea plantation in 1985-86; and

(c) the details of the areas which were brought under the tea plantation in Orissa in 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) According to Seventh Plan document for tea, target for new planting during 1985-86 is 4300 hectares.

(b) and (c) The information in respect of new area brought under tea all over India during 1985-86 is not available at present. Area brought under tea cultivation in Orissa upto 4.11.1985 was 31.47 hectares.