

- (iii) To undertake development of globally competitive/futuristic technologies together with Industry with the aim to achieve technological self-reliance.

An allocation of Rs. 60.00 crore has been made during the VIIIth Plan Period.

[Translation]

APPEARS TO SUGAR MILLS

1423. **Shri Lalit Oraon** : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding amounts as Sugarcane arrears due to farmers as on November 30, 1995 State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the arrears?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) On the basis of the available information furnished by sugar factories, the Statewise position of cane price arrears relating to the 1994-95 season as on 30-9-1995 is in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Ensuring timely payment of cane price is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have got the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payment. However, the Central Government has been monitoring the position and had requested the State Government to take requisite steps to liquidate the cane price arrears.

STATEMENT

Statement Showing Statewise Position of Arrears of Cane Price Relating to the 1994-95 season as on 30-9-1995.

S.No.	State	Cane Price Arrears as reported by factories (in lakhs of rupees)
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	39.89
2.	Haryana	192.62
3.	Rajasthan	129.16
4.	Uttar Pradesh	6680.46
5.	Madhya Pradesh	278.62
6.	Gujarat	155.06
7.	Maharashtra	1079.83

1	2	3
8.	Bihar	2069.31
9.	Assam	0.01
10.	Andhra Pradesh	928.27
11.	Karnataka	3395.31
12.	Tamilnadu	3558.16
13.	Kerala	0.71
14.	Orissa	0.00
15.	West Bengal	0.33
16.	Nagaland	0.00
17.	Pondicherry	1.18
18.	Goa	0.00
All India		18508.92

[English]

COMMISSION FOR FAIR PRICE SHOPS

1424. **Shri Chandresh Patel** : Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed any commodity-wise commission for Public Distribution System and Ration Shops and Co-operative Consumers Shops etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise.

(c) whether there is any demand from Fair Price Shops to increase their commission;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of the commodity wise Commissions in each States and Union Territory during 1990 to 1995, year-wise?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System) (Shri Venod Sharma) : (a) to (e) The Central Government issues Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities at fixed Central Issue Prices (CIP) to States/UTs for distribution through PDS. The States/UTs

generally decide upon matters like margins for PDS outlets while fixing the end retail prices of commodities as part of their operational responsibilities. In case of sugar, margins are finalised by Ministry of Food, State-wise, based on the recommendations/proposal received from State Governments/UTs and subject to maintenance of uniform end retail price of levy sugar throughout the country. In case of kerosene the Government finalises margins to wholesalers and retailers and transport charges are fixed by the respective States/UTs. In Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) areas the Central Government has advised the States/UTs that end retail prices of foodgrains should not exceed 25 paise over the CIP for RPDS areas. Detailed Year-wise, commodities wise commissions in each States/UTs are not maintained by the Central Government.

SUBSIDIES IN AGRICULTURE

1425. **Shri Ram Kapse** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economic Survey Report 1994-95 has recommended scaling down subsidies in Agriculture to augment resource in the other sectors; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) and (b) The Economic Survey 1994-95 has, inter-alia, drawn attention towards declining trend of public investment in agriculture observed in recent years and the need to reverse this trend. As the higher rate of investment in agriculture is absolutely vital for the overall growth and diversification of agriculture, it becomes necessary that the available resources are used more for the building up productive infrastructure in agriculture rather than allowing increasing share of current expenditure for subsidising inputs, especially power and irrigation water.

SALE OF WHEAT IN OPEN MARKET

1426. **Shri Surendra Pal Pathak** : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have reviewed all the aspects of sale of wheat in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) to (c) For making open Sale Scheme more effective and to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are available to a large number of beneficiaries including small traders, the Government had reviewed the policy and procedure of

the open market sale scheme. After review the FCI was advised as under :

- (i) To fix an upper ceiling of 200 MT and 1000 MT for open sale from FCI godowns with capacity of 5000 MT and more than 5000 MT respectively per buyer per week;
- (ii) To advise Distt. Managers not to assume the role of allotting wheat for open sale to buyers. With upper ceiling as in para (i) above they were advised to follow the existing instructions on "First come First served" basis;
- (iii) To reduce the difficulties and harassment to the purchasers, FCI was advised that the purchasers may not be asked to take delivery of wheat normally from a point beyond 100 kms from their place of business;
- (iv) To keep a close and constant watch on the pattern of sales, General market reports, price trend etc.;
- (v) To enforce policy of "First In First Out" while issuing foodgrains in open sale;
- (vi) To display prominently a Notice Board in the Offices of Distt. Managers indicating clearly the tentative quantity available for sale, total stocks available and rates of open sale.

FCI have issued instructions to their Field Offices and it is felt that grievances of the general buyers have been reduced to the minimum by following the above procedure/instructions.

FISHERIES PROPOSALS

1427. **Shri Thamil John Anjalose** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals relating to fisheries from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) No proposals other than on the ongoing Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to fisheries have been received from State Governments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

1428. **Shri Sushil Chandra Verma** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :