

Opening of new Post Offices in rural areas

90. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new post offices have been opened in rural areas during 1977, 1978 and 1979 (year-wise);

(b) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide additional postal facilities in rural areas by opening new post offices as near as possible to the villages, and

(c) if so, how many such post offices are proposed to be opened during 1980 and 1981 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) The practice in the P & T Department is to compile statistics according to the financial years. The number of post offices opened in the last three years is as follows:—

| Years | No. of post offices opened |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| (1) 1977-78 | 3,297 |
| (2) 1978-79 | 5,753 |
| (3) 1979-80 | 5,663 |

(b) Rural post offices are opened with reference to prescribed norms in a phased manner according to the targets fixed in the successive Five Year/Annual Plans. Wherever a post office is sanctioned taking into account the combined population of a group of villages, care is taken to see that a central village is selected, for locating the post office.

(c) It is proposed to open about 5,000 post offices in rural areas during 1980-81. This is subject to modification in the light of the revised Five Year Plan, 1980—85 as may be finally approved by the Planning Commission. The number of post offices proposed to be opened in 1981-82 will be known when the revised Five Year Plan 1980—85 is finalised.

Price of Sugar during last three years

91. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the month-end prices of sugar in important markets of the country during the last three years, upto and including May, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-827/80] (During this period, sugar was under decontrol from 16-8-1978 to 16-12-1979. The prices shown relate to free-sale sugar during the period of control, and for the entire sales during the period of decontrol).

Drought in Gujarat

92. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain parts of Gujarat State are also facing drought and famine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the help rendered to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Fourteen districts of Gujarat have been affected by drought conditions of varying degrees, of which 3 districts of Panchmahals, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha have been the worst affected. The total cropped area affected by drought, according to the State Government, is about 11.24 lakh ha.

(c) The State Government has been providing relief to the drought affected areas by organising relief works as well as works under the Food for Work Programme subsidising the distribution of fodder, arranging transportation of water, deepening of existing wells, sinking new wells, re-orienting agricultural strategy through soil conservation,

dry farming and water management practices. The State Government also proposes to provide cash doles to 2 lakh indigent persons who cannot be covered under the Relief works programme. The State Government has also re-scheduled the short-term co-operative loans and waived the interest liability in respect of short-term loans given to small and marginal farmers in the drought affected areas. At the request of the State Government a Central Team visited Gujarat from the 19th to the 21st May, 1980 for an on-the-spot assessment of the drought situation and recommending Central assistance. The State Government has been allocated 10,000 MT foodgrains under the Food for Work Programme in April, 1980. On the basis of the report of the Team, Central assistance will be released very shortly. Government of India have already allocated short-term loan of Rs. 4 crores for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs during Kharif season.

Payment of Salary to Teachers of K.S.D. Sanskrit University

93. SHRI HARINATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that K.S.D. Sanskrit University, Bihar, is a recognised institution by the U.G.C.;

(b) whether teachers of Sanskrit colleges and Vidyalayas affiliated to the University are either not receiving their salary according to norms prescribed by the State Government, or receiving no emoluments at all; and

(c) if so, the number of teachers involved and the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to remove their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As the Sanskrit Colleges affiliated to, and the Vidyalayas

recognised by, the KSD Sanskrit University receive financial assistance from the Government of Bihar, the State Government has been requested to look into the matter.

चीनी के कारखाना मूल्य कम करने के लिए चीनी मिल मालिकों को निदेश

94. श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर:
श्री ओस्कर फर्नाण्डिस :
श्री के. प्रधानी :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार ने सभी चीनी मिल मालिकों को निदेश जारी किये हैं अथवा कोई अपील की है कि वे स्वेच्छा से चीनी के कारखाना मूल्य कम करें ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितने चीनी मिल मालिकों ने इस निदेश का पालन किया है और कितने चीनी मिल मालिकों ने इसका पालन नहीं किया है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार राज्य के पूर्व चम्पारन जिले के बाराचकियां और मांती-हारी शहर मिल द्वारा सरकार के इस निदेश का पालन किया गया था ;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने यह भी निर्णय किया है कि यदि चीनी मिल मालिकों द्वारा इस निदेश का पालन नहीं किया गया तो उनके खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही की जायेगी; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की नीति क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर. बी. स्वामीनाथन) (क) से (ङ): सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई निदेश जारी नहीं किया है क्योंकि चीनी की माँजूदा दोहरी मूल्य प्रणाली जिसमें केवल लेवी चीनी का सांविधिक मूल्य निर्धारित किया जाता है, के अधीन ऐसा निदेश करने का विचार नहीं है और इसलिए इस संबंध में व्यक्तिगत मिलों की प्रतिक्रिया को निगरानी करने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता। तथापि, सरकार सामान्यतया खूली बिक्री की चीनी के मूल्यों पर निगरानी रख रही है और जब वे अनुचित रूप से ऊँचे स्तर तक पहुँच जाते हैं तब