

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of balwadis, nariniketans established in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them, maintained by the Government and private agencies, separately;

(c) expenditure incurred on them during the last one year, State-wise and whether that expenditure is subject to audit;

(d) if so, whether any cases of misuse of funds in the above institutions were reported to the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to open more balwadis and nariniketans during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import Export of Sugar

2425. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
SHRI D VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI VILASRAO NAGATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which and the Country from which sugar has been imported during 1994 till date;

(b) whether sugar has also been exported and if so, the name of the Country and the price at which it has been exported;

(c) whether the price of export is less than the imported and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the foreign exchange spent in the import of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Government have allowed duty free import of sugar under Open General Licence. As such, sugar is being imported by private parties and Public Sector Undertakings, namely, STC and MMTC. The private parties are importing sugar as per their own commercial judgement and details regarding the price at which the sugar has been contracted, the country of origin of the sugar imported and foreign exchange involved in the sugar imported by them are not available.

As regards STC and MMTC, they have contracted for import of about 10 lakh tonnes of sugar at an average price (C&F) US Dollar 387 per tonne with companies based in USA, France, U.K., Hongkong, Japan, Germany etc. Their imports are in progress.

(b) and (c). According to the Export Agency, namely, Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., New Delhi, during 1994, till date they have exported 16,600 Metric Tonnes of sugar as

preferential quota to USA at US Dollar 435 per Metric Tonne (FOB). [Translation]

They have exported the sugar at a price higher than the price at which sugar has been imported by them during 1994.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the total foreign exchange spent in the import of sugar at this stage as imports are still in progress.

Production of Sugar

2426. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation of sugar mills will increase the production of sugar;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government; and

(c) the estimated production of sugar during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Central Government provides financial assistance to sugar factories on soft terms from the Sugar Development Fund for undertaking modernisation and rehabilitation. Further, a Mission Mode project under the Ministry of Science & Technology, in collaboration with the Ministry of Food, is being taken up to upgrade the technology in 30 selected factories to bring about cost effectiveness in production & serve as demonstration units for other factories.

(c) It is too early to give estimates of sugar production for the sugar season 1994-95 (October-September).

Sugar Mills

2427. SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick sugar mills at present, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them closed down;

(c) the reasons for their closure; and

(d) the steps taken to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). These provisions have been extended to cover Government companies also. BIFR has intimated that as on 30.6.94 there were 13 cases of sick sugar companies registered with them. A statement showing the State-wise list of such sick sugar companies, as furnished by BIFR, given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) All the above factories are reported working during 1993-94 season, except Salarjung Sugar Mills in Kamataka.

(c) Sickness leading to closure could be due to a variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, size, age and condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial competence, excessively high