

(a) places where apple orchards exist in the country ;

(b) whether this year there has been a poor crop in Himalayan region where the disease known as 'apple scab' has badly affected the crop ; and

(c) the likely output of apple in Himachal Pradesh and from other places this year as compared to last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Large scale apple cultivation has been taken up in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. However, apple is grown to a small extent in the States of Sikkim, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) Apple scab disease has not affected the crop badly during this year.

(c) The data on production of apple are not being collected as it is not forecast crop. However, production during 1983-84 and 1984-85 are roughly estimated as under:—

	Apple production ('000 tonnes)	
	1983-84	1984-85
Himachal Pradesh	257.91	170.63
All India	985.90	1005.56

The crop in 1985-86 is being harvested and there is no rough estimate of production.

[Translation]

Rise in prices of Vegetables, Fruits and Rice

3055. SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA : will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that prices of vegetables, fruits, and rice etc. are increasing constantly ;

(b) if so, whether one of the reasons behind the price rise is their export ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to stop export of these commodities ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) There has been some rise in the prices of vegetables, fruits and rice during the past few months mainly due to the seasonality factor. Exports do not seem to have had any significant role in the recent price rise since the quantity exported forms only a very small proportion of the total production of these commodities in the country. Further, in the case of rice only basmati rice is allowed to be exported. The export of onions is regulated. There is at present no proposal under the consideration of the Government to ban the exports of fruits and vegetables and basmati rice.

[English]

Sugar Demand For Festival Season

3056. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that demand for sugar is increasing day by day but production is declining ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the public demand for the coming festival season?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) There has been progressive increase in internal consumption of sugar from 1981-82 season whereas sugar production in 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons has declined from the record level of production achieved during 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons.

(b) To meet the gap between demand and supply of sugar, it has already been decided, to import about 10 lakh tonnes