

villages and a population between 67,000 and 1,00,000 with variations depending on local and geographical conditions. It is now for the State Governments to determine the size and the population of blocks. During the VIth Plan, allocation under Integrated Rural Development Programme was given to the States on the basis of blocks. In order to get IRDP allocation for new blocks, proposals for recognition of newly created/proposed blocks were received by this Department. The system of allocation for this programme in the VIIth plan has now been changed in favour of a formula of selectivity basis on the incidence of poverty. In view of this it is no longer necessary for a State Government to seek recognition of blocks from this Department for the purpose of IRDP funds. The State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Assam, who had approach for additional blocks to be recognised for IRDP allocations have accordingly been informed.

#### Telecast of Hindi Films on Sunday in the National Hook Up

911. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken policy decision that only Hindi films would be telecast on every Sunday evening in national hook-up; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). It has been decided that in addition to the Hindi feature films being telecast on Sunday evenings, the following may also be considered for telecast on the national network on atleast two Sundays of every month :

(a) A good classic film

(b) A premier film

(c) A tale film

(d) A top-class regional language film which has won a national award for best film

(e) An outstanding drama/play.

#### Import of Sugar

912. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to import sugar (about one lakh tonnes) and if so, the names of the countries from which sugar is being imported and the rate per tonne as compared to rate per tonne of indigenous sugar;

(b) what has been the annual consumption of sugar in the country during the last two years as compared to the demand estimated in 1985-86;

(c) whether indigenous production of sugar is not sufficient to cater to the demands in the country;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase production of sugar in the country; and

(e) the reasons for resort to import of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) As regards sugar imports during the financial year 1985-86, it has been decided for the present to import about 10 lakh tonnes of sugar upto September 1985. The Contracts for import of sugar are entered into by the State Trading Corporation of India with the International Brokers and the sellers have the option to ship sugar of any origin except South Africa and Israel. For the sugar which has so far been contracted by the State Trading Corporation for import the approximate average C and F price works out to about Rs. 2000 per tonne and as against this, the average all-India ex-factory price of levy sugar for 1984-85 season's sugar production is Rs. 3467.50 per tonne.

(b) Super season is reckoned from October to September. The annual sugar consumption in the country during the last 2 sugar seasons namely, 1982-83 and 1983-84 was 64.79 and 75.70 lakh tonnes respectively. As against this, the requirement of sugar for internal consumption during the current sugar season 1984-85 is estimated to be about 82 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (e). The decline in sugar production to 59.16 lakh tonnes in 1983-84

season and to about 61 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 season from the record production of about 84 and 82 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons and significant increase in internal consumption from 1981-82 season onwards, has resulted in limited availability of indigenous sugar. It has, therefore, been decided to resort to import of sugar to augment the availability so as to ensure adequate supplies at reasonable prices to the consumers in open market.

(d) To increase the sugar production, the payment of remunerative cane prices to the growers by the sugar factories is being ensured besides making available adequate credit facilities to the factories enabling them to liquidate the cane price arrears expeditiously. Moreover, under incentive scheme, new sugar factories/expansion projects are being given the benefit of higher free sale quota together with excise duty concessions.

#### Production of Cashew

913. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the target set during 1984-85 for production of cashew; and

(b) the performance of each State in the production of cashew during 1983-84 with the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Sixth Plan envisaged production of three lakh tonnes of cashewnut by 1984-85.

(b) As cashew is not a forecast crop, there is no State-wise official statistics of production of cashew for the year 1983-84. However, rough estimates of production of cashewnut for major cashewnut growing States/UTs for the year 1981-82 are as follows :

States	Production of cashewnut in M.T.
1	2
1. Kerala	1,18,000
2. Karnataka	18,000

1	2
3. Andhra Pradesh	20,000
4. Tamil Nadu	10,500
5. Maharashtra	10,000
6. Goa	8,000
7. Orissa	8,000
8. West Bengal	2,500
9. Pondicherry	200
10. Tripura	60
Total	1,95,760

#### Progress of NREP

914. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what is being done through the National Rural Employment Programme for the unorganised rural labour;

(b) whether any assessment has been made to find out the economic benefit that have gone to them; and

(c) the details of the Central contribution for this programme and whether there is any plan to augment it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b). Besides generating additional employment for the rural unemployed/under-employed particularly during the lean periods, the implementation of National Rural Employment Programme results in creation of various types of assets which strengthen the rural infrastructure. The evaluation of the programme implementation has been conducted in some of the States by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission but their report has not yet been received.

(c) During the Sixth Plan period a total amount of Rs. 1119.45 crores was given to States/UTs as central assistance. For the year 1985-86 an assistance of Rs. 230 crores has been allocated as Central assistance. The