

(d) whether any scientific investigations are being carried out to know the nature of the disease affecting the sugarcane crop and to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. As per available information, the sugarcane crop in UP is not affected by any strange disease and hence there can be no question of any heavy loss to any cultivator. However, a severe attack of well-known Pyrilla pest on sugarcane crop was noticed in 24 districts of UP, in recent months. Since the sugarcane crop was at early stage, massive ground control operations were launched by the State authorities. Bio-control potential has also been identified at various places. According to the latest available information from the State Government, the Pyrilla situation is under control and the crop has been saved from the damage.

New Staffing Pattern for Rural Development Schemes

967. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any new staffing pattern in the districts for proper implementation of different rural development schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b). A High Level Committee has been set up by the Planning Commission to review the existing administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, and to recommend appropriate structural mechanisms to ensure that they are planned in an integrated manner and effectively implemented. The Committee is yet to submit its report. Any change in the existing staffing pattern at the district level would depend on the report of the Committee and its acceptance by the Government.

Sugar Released for Maharashtra

968. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the 'Times of India'—Bombay dated 1 July, 1985 that the prices of sugar are rising without any let up, despite Government's decision to adhere to the policy of liberal release for domestic consumption; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the quantity of sugar released during 1984-85 in favour of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Levy sugar meant for public distribution system is allotted in favour of State Government including Maharashtra. So far as free sale sugar is concerned, or it was only imported sugar which was allotted in favour of State Governments including Maharashtra for the months of June and July, 1985. The quantity of imported sugar so allotted in favour of Maharashtra Government for the said 2 months was 31503 tonnes.

Government had finalised a scheme for meeting the open market sugar requirements which had come into effect from 1st of June, 1985. In addition to the indigenously produced sugar released for meeting open market requirements, certain quantity of imported sugar was to be lifted by the State Governments for distribution through controlled channels at below Rs. 6 per K.g. and some stocks were to be sold by the Food Corporation against tender/auction in open market. Certain infrastructure deficiencies and logistic problems had led to reduced off-take by the States and Food Corporation of India initially. However, these problems have been sorted out leading to larger off-take by the States and the Food Corporation of India in the month of July, 1985. With this streamlining it is expected that availability would improve as programmed resulting in adequate supplies at reasonable prices to the consumers.