

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) According to information available, out of 15,735 villages in the State of Tamil Nadu about 3,900 villages were provided with drinking water facilities at the end of 1975-76.

(b) For all State Plan schemes including water supply, Central assistance is made available to States in the shape of Block grants and Block loans. The amount of such assistance utilised by the Tamil Nadu Government on rural water supply during last three years is not known.

During the current year, a new Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme has been launched for providing drinking water to problem villages. Under this programme 100 per cent Central assistance is being given to States during 1977-78. A sum of Rs. 140.00 lakhs has been allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu during 1977-78 under the above mentioned programme. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 37.30 lakhs has been released as the first instalment of Central assistance to that State.

(c) Further releases of Central assistance to Tamil Nadu or Gujarat or any other State, under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, will depend upon the progress of execution of water supply schemes approved for execution under this programme. The programme does not envisage compensation to States for loss of revenue, if any, caused due to prohibition.

Dual Pricing Policy for Sugar

124. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI UGRASEN:

SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

DR. BAPU KALDATY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to abandon the dual pricing policy for sugar; and

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Proposals were received from various quarters, including the industry, trade associations, etc., both in support of continuation of the present policy of partial control on sugar and also for abandoning the dual pricing policy for sugar. After careful consideration of all the aspects and repercussions in various quarters Government has decided to continue the existing policy of partial control. However, States will be advised to treat the rural and urban population in a similar manner for purposes of distribution of levy sugar.

(b) Those in favour of giving up the dual pricing policy usually put forward the reasons that controls breed corruption and that levy sugar did not really reach the masses particularly in the rural areas. Those in favour of continuation of partial control felt that to the common man who gets sugar from the public distribution system, the price of sugar would go up from Rs. 2.15 per kg. to Rs. 3.00 or more per kg. and the rural industries sector of Gur and Khandsari will find it difficult to operate economically in such a situation.