

versity system through effective vocationalisation at the secondary stage, delinking jobs from degrees, changing recruitment policies which make a degree a minimum qualification for any good job;

2. Restraint in the establishment of new institutions, which should not be set up (except in backward areas) unless the need is established on academic considerations and availability of resources;

3. Planning the location of new institutions very carefully and rationalising that of the existing ones;

4. Selective admission to full-time institutions of higher education at the first degree and post-graduate levels on the basis of merit with reservation of at least half the seats for weaker sections;

5. Provision of facilities to meet the full cost of education of talented but economically weaker students;

6. Expansion of higher education through non-formal channels;

7. Opening Secondary/Intermediate Board and University examinations to private candidates.

The document was discussed at the general meeting of the Association of Indian Universities held at Rajkot in January, 1978. The proposals contained in the document are yet to be considered by the Government.

Subsidy for Groundnut Production in Gujarat

900. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government have plans to increase groundnut production during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have approached the Centre for liberal subsidy to groundnut cultivators for purchase of fertilisers and pesticides;

(c) whether the State Government have also sought the Central help in establishing a groundnut research centre at Junagadh in Saurashtra; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A proposal to establish a National Research Centre exclusively for groundnut in Gujarat under the Gujarat Agricultural University has been received by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research from the Gujarat Agricultural University.

(d) The proposal is being considered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Prime Minister on changes in Education System

901. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM:

SHRI SHANKARSINHJI VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether once again the Prime Minister has made it clear that drastic changes should be made in the system of education to make it more productive for development;

(b) if so, whether he has also stated that all schools should be equal, and uniform education should be imparted to all students;

(c) if so, whether these points were discussed in a three day national educational conference held in New Delhi on 18th December, 1977;

(d) if so, whether the Education Ministry has been asked to work out the proposals in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). In his inaugural speech at the National Education Conference convened under the auspices of All India Nai Talim Samiti on 18th December, 1977, the Prime Minister underlined the necessity for making radical changes in the educational system. The Prime Minister mentioned *inter alia* that educational reform must be so brought about that all schools have equal importance and all students are given equal attention and equal education. The points raised by the Prime Minister were among those discussed in the 3-day National Education Conference held in New Delhi on 18th, 19th and 20th December, 1977.

(d) and (e). The recommendations of the Conference have been communicated by the organisers to the Government for necessary action. Many of the recommendations such as universalisation of elementary education, promotion of adult education, lightening of academic load of students in schools, introduction of non-formal education, adoption of regional language as media of instruction and many others have been accepted by Government and some of them are already under various stages of implementation. The Government will also take into consideration the recommendations of the Conference while finalising National Policy on Education.

Demand for Higher Levy Sugar Price

902. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

DR. HENRY AUSTIN:

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

(a) whether President of the Sugar Mills Association has demanded

higher price for levy sugar as the sugar industry was facing a financial crisis and this may result non-payment of dues to the sugarcane growers and farmers for sugar-cane already purchased;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered their request and to what extent it has solved their problem;

(c) whether Government have stopped the export of sugar and whether this has resulted in decline in the price of sugar; and

(d) to what extent Government expect the fall of sugar prices during the year 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Sugar Mills Associations has urged the Government to fix realistic price for levy sugar.

(b) The representation is receiving attention.

(c) The Government have decided that during 1977-78 financial year, sugar should be exported only to the extent of commitments made in a manner which would minimise the extent of financial losses. The decline of prices in sugar in the internal markets is mainly due to larger carry over stocks of sugar this year and the anticipated increase in production as also the Government's desire to increase consumption in a sustained manner by increased releases of levy as well as non-levy sugar.

(d) The behaviour of prices of sugar depends on a number of factors and it is difficult to anticipate them. However, due to a larger sugarcane output and, therefore, of all the sweetening agents in the country during the current 1977-78 sugar year, sugar prices are expected to be continued to be subdued.