

श्रीर क्या इस बारे में एक उच्चस्तरीय जांच कराने का विचार है ?

कृषि श्रीर सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री पुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) जी नहीं । 1977-78 में रायचूर स्थित केन्द्रीय राज्य फार्म में 5526 विक्टल कपास का उत्पादन हुआ है, जिसका मूल्य 22.66 लाख रुपये है । इसका न तो कोई भाग चोरी हुआ और न ही नष्ट हुआ है ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता ।

Conditions for Central Aid under Food for Work Scheme

33. SHRI K. A. RAJU:
SHRI A. MURUGESAN;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased state:

(a) the conditions under which assistance under 'Food for Work' programme is given to the States; and

(b) the plans and programmes for intensifying such assistance on a larger scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Under the Food for Work Programme the foodgrains are supplied to the State Governments for payment of wages in part or full to the labour engaged on productive works which result in creation of durable community assets in the rural areas and strengthen the rural infrastructure. The State Governments have to show additionality over and above its budget provision equivalent to the total value of foodgrains received computed at Rs. 105 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 115 and Rs. 130 per quintal for coarse and fine varieties of rice respectively. A variety of works can be taken up under the scheme such as major, medium and minor ir-

rigation works; flood protection, drainage and anti-water-logging works; soil and water conservation and afforestation works including social forestry on Government and Community lands; maintenance and construction of roads; construction of intermediate and main drains and field channels; school buildings and community centres etc. in the rural areas.

(b) The scope of the scheme has been enlarged so as to cover the on-going plans and on-plan works, new items of capital works and works relating to flood control etc. The State Governments can also entrust the execution of works to the voluntary agencies of repute and standing. Rice has also been introduced into the scheme and State Governments are eligible to receive a quantity upto 50 per cent of the total foodgrains made available under the programme in the form of rice.

Advice to State Governments to Desist from Raising Sugarcane Prices

34. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has advised the State Governments to desist from raising in an *ad hoc* manner the sugarcane prices in 1978-79;

(b) if so, details of the communication issued to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) what is the reaction of the State Governments State-wise, to the communication issued by him; and

(d) what steps are being taken/envisaged to protect the interest of cane-growers particularly ensuring them remunerative prices for sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government have pointed out in their communication to the Chief Ministers that consequent on the removal of controls the Government of India had also simultaneously announced a liberal increase in the statutory cane price payable for the season 1978-79 from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent. For an average recovery of 10 per cent for the industry as a whole this will ensure an average price of about Rs. 11.75 per quintal. In addition, there is also statutory sharing of 50 per cent of excess realisations. In the opinion of Central Government this price level is both remunerative and reasonable to all concerned. It was pointed out that as prices of sugar will have to be regulated by normal laws of supply and demand, and in the wake of high level of production the sugar factories could not be expected to pay a cane price unrelated to recovery; that it would also be a self defeating exercise in the long run to disturb the delicate balance through ad-hoc higher levels of cane price.

(c) Replies have been received from the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; no replies have yet been received from Chief Ministers of other States. Chief Minister of Maharashtra has stated that the matter is under examination. Chief Minister of Karnataka has while pointing out the problem created by Cooperatives paying rather high prices, has by and large agreed that to the maximum extent possible we should allow the market forces to operate. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has assured that they will keep in mind the factors mentioned in our letter.

(d) In the conditions of sugarcane and sugar economy at present it is considered that the present level of minimum cane price paid is remunerative and reasonable. To further protect the interests of farmers in regard to prompt clearance of dues by sugar factories, an Ordinance has been pro-

mulgated on 9-11-78 enabling the Central Government to take over the management of any factories who leave arrears beyond stipulated level.

Result of Decontrol of Sugar

35. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN;
SHRI RAM SEWAK HAZARI;
SHRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether the policy of decontrol of sugar has achieved the purpose of a fair price to the cultivator, and a reasonable price to the consumer;

(b) whether it is a fact that sugar industry is incurring losses despite decontrol measures; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to ensure uninterrupted production of sugar and reasonable satisfaction of needs of cultivator and consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) After the decontrol of sugar, the prices of sugar are ruling at subdued level. To ensure a fair price to the cultivator for his produce the statutory minimum price of sugarcane has been raised from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10 per quintal for the current 1978-79 sugar season.

(b) As over 27 lakh tonnes of stocks, out of the production of 65 lakh tonnes in 1977-78 sugar season, are still to be disposed off by the industry, it is too soon to come to any final conclusion on the profitability or otherwise to the sugar industry as a result of the 1977-78 sugar season's operations.

(c) To ensure the uninterrupted production of sugar and safeguard the interests of the cultivators and the consumers, an Ordinance has been promulgated providing for the takeover