

6. In case of Group A posts, approval for dereservations of posts was sought only during 1977 and during the subsequent recruitment years i.e. 1978 and 1979 no reserved post was dereserved.

7. Special recruitment drives were undertaken during 1979 exclusively for SC/ST candidates with a view to improve their representation in Group A posts in which the prescribed percentages of representation have not been achieved.

8. Proposals for dereservation of posts were put up to the Board only in such cases where SC/ST candidates were not available for recruitment even on the basis of relaxed standards and inspite of wide publicity.

#### *Promotions*

Posts reserved for SC/ST employees were dereserved only in such cases where eligible departmental SC/ST candidates were not available for promotion. Before dereserving the posts, it was ensured that the case of eligible departmental SC/ST candidates was not ignored.

Prior approval of the competent authority is obtained for dereservation of the posts reserved for SC/ST except in those cases where permission was accorded in anticipation of the approval of the competent authority to meet the organisational requirements when eligible SC/ST candidates were not available for promotion.

(c) Two Members of Parliament namely Shri S. B. Damor and Shri R. L. Kureel had sought clarifications/information from IOC in respect of one case of dereservation of a reserved post. Shri Kureel had also written to Minister (P, C&F) in January 1979 in this regard.

(d) All the queries raised by the above mentioned two Members of Parliament related to the case of a SC employee who could not be promoted against the reserved posts as he was not eligible for promotion at

the given time. The main points raised by them were as follows:

(1) A post of Jr. Accountant was hurriedly dereserved in favour of general candidate and the same was not kept reserved for three years as per rules.

(2) Back-dated seniority be given to the SC candidate who was promoted in March, 1979.

As regards the specific case referred by them, it was clarified that in October, 1977, promotion of a general category candidate as Jr. Accountant against the post reserved for SC candidate was made as no departmental SC candidate was eligible for promotion on the date of the DPC meeting. The reservation was carried forward and in March, 1979 when a post of Jr. Accountant reserved for a SC candidate as per the reservation roster fell vacant the same was filled by promoting a SC candidate only.

As regards the question of giving back-dated seniority it was explained that doing so would not be correct, it would mean giving seniority to a person without his having assumed charge of the higher responsibilities.

#### **Sugar Production and its Distribution.**

721. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production, offtake and stocks of sugar during fortnight ended January 16, 1980 was less than during the corresponding fortnight last year;

(b) whether there has been considerable fall in sugar production this year in comparison to last year;

(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) whether union Ministry on Feb. 11, 1980 took several steps to improve the supply of levy sugar from the mills for public distribution;

(e) if so, whether inspite of this prices of sugar shot up to a record one and there was also a considerable shortage of sugar in many parts of the country;

(f) whether sugar was smuggled to neighbouring countries where sugar was sold at much higher rates and

(g) what steps Government have taken to stabilise the prices of sugar and its availability in the market?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, the production and offtake of sugar during the fortnight ending 15th January, in 1978-79 and 1979-80 seasons are as under:—

(Lakh tonnes)

	Fortnight ending 15th January	
	1978-79	1979-80
1. Production	5.34	4.74
2. Off-take for internal consumption	2.36	0.95

The stocks of sugar as on 15th January during 1978-79 and 1979-80 seasons were 29.51 lakh tonnes and 18.62 lakh tonnes respectively. The sugar production upto 29th February in 1979-80 season has declined to 29.44 lakh tonnes from 34.85 lakh tones upto the same date in 1978-79 season.

(d) to (g). The important steps taken to improve the supply of levy sugar are as under:—

(i) Periodical review meetings have been held at Lucknow, Bombay and Patna for taking on-the-spot decisions for overcoming difficulties in the way of speedy movement of levy sugar.

(ii) Movement of levy sugar by special rakes from factories in

U.P. and Maharashtra, the major sugar producing States, to far off deficit States like West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi etc. has been arranged.

(iii) On the complaints received from Food Corporation of India for delay in indenting of wagons by some factories, show cause notices have been issued to the factories for launching prosecutions against them.

(iv) Against January, February and March quotas, Food Corporation of India is taking up road movement for distances upto 300 Km. in cases where sugar stocks can not be moved by rail and adequate supplies are not available in the consuming districts.

As a result of the above steps, there has been considerable improvement in the supply and availability of levy sugar as a result of which the sugar prices in open market have also declined. The wholesale prices in open market have come down by about Rs. 40/- to Rs. 100/- per quintal as on 11-3-1980 as compared to the prices in the second fortnight of February, 1980.

(f) Strict watch is being maintained on the borders to check any smuggling of sugar to the neighbouring countries.

**Setting up of a Project by ONGC at Nhava near Bombay**

**722. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that objections are being raised by certain quarters against the ONGC project coming up at Nhava near Bombay in the name of ecology; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?