

Minister of Punjab asking for white tigers and other animals for the Chhat Bir Zoo in Punjab; and

(b) The action proposed to be taken on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have recently decided to distribute white tigers among the selected zoos in the country having suitable expertise and experience in breeding tigers. No white tiger is proposed to be given to the Chhat Bir Zoo at present. As for other animals, the State Government of Punjab have been advised to finalise an exchange proposal with the Nandan Kanan Zoo in Orissa. The Delhi Zoological Park, New Delhi, has been helping the Chhat Bir Zoo by giving animals and birds which it could spare.

Utilisation of Gas from the Bombay High

821. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE:

SHRI R. K. MHALGI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision with regard to the utilisation of Gas from the Bombay High;

(b) if so, whether the sharing of this Gas has been objected to by the States concerned; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to these objections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The present policy of the Government is as far as practicable to utilise the off shore gas as feedstock for the production of fertilizers, petrochemicals and for extraction of LPG, etc. To the extent the gas cannot be used immediately for these purposes it can be diverted for other purposes such as power generation, etc., purely as a fall-back

arrangement on a temporary basis till the fertilizer and petrochemical plants are able to utilise it fully.

However, in view of the increased availability of offshore gas, a Working Group was constituted in March last year to recommend *inter-alia* the most economic and optimal utilisation of offshore gas. The report of the Working Group has already been received and is under consideration.

(b) Requests for sharing of offshore gas have been received from some States.

(c) Offshore gas reserves are a national resource and their utilisation would have to be governed by the overall national considerations and keeping in view their optimum utility in the interest of the country's economy.

Increase in price of Sugar

822. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE:

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI DHARAMDAS SHASTRI:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar has considerably increased during the months of January and first two weeks of February, 1980;

(b) if so, what is the actual increase;

(c) what was the price/average during the year 1979; and

(d) the reasons for the steep rise in the price of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). A statement showing the week end wholesale prices of sugar in principal markets during the period January, 1979 to 7th March, 1980 is attached.

(d) During the current season there has been a sharp fall in the production of sugar partly due to shrinkage of area under cane cultivation and partly due to adverse weather conditions. After a review of the situation partial control on sugar was reintroduced w.e.f. 17th December, 1979. There were, however, some initial

bottlenecks of transport etc., inherent in any new policy change. Some writ petitions were also filed by sugar producers against the levy prices fixed by the Government. This also slowed the lifting of sugar from the factories with the result that scarcity was felt in some parts of the country which also led to increase in the prices of free-sale sugar. The lifting of sugar from the factories has of late, picked up and supplies are being rushed to all the consuming Centres. With the improved availability of sugar from Ration Shops there has been a declining trend in the prices of sugar from the 3rd week of February, 1980.

Statement

Wholesale Prices of Sugar in Principal Markets

(Rupees per Quintal)

Month Year	As on	Delhi		Kanpur Calcutta		Bombay		Madras
		C-30	D-30	D-30	D-30	C-30	D-30	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jan. 1979	8th	242	224 (5th)	225	230	216	207	214
	15th	240	222 (11th)	235	230	214	207	214 (12th)
	22nd	238	220	225	228	208	200	214
	31st	237	220	225	228	210	203	214
Feb. 1979	7th	238	220	225	240	213	205	214
	15th	237	220	225	236	216	208	213
	22nd	238	216 (21st)	225	232	211	205	214
	28th	240	220	220	230	226	224	220
March 1979	7th	241	235	220	235	218	212	220
	15th	250	245	222 (12th)	235 (9th)	230	226	233
	22nd	270	260	260	255	246	240	230
	31st	284	275	285	260 (30th)	258	254	258
April 1979	7th	290	285	285	290	255	251	253
	16th	286	273	285	285	252	249	253
	23rd	282 (21st)	268	280	285	250	243	259
	30th	275	268	280	275	254	248	255

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>May, 1979</i>	7th	275	268	280	275	255	248	255
	15th	278	268	280	280	256	248	257
	22nd	280	268 (21st)	280	276	255	249	257
	31st	276	269	275 (28th)	276	255	248	258
<i>June, 1979</i>	7th	280	269	280	280	251	247	256
	15th	280	268	260	275	252	247	257
	22nd	282	270	260 (21st)	275	254	248	256
	30th	285	280 (29th)	265	290	255	250	253
<i>July 1979</i>	7th	292	285	265	290 (6th)	259	254	253
	16th	302	299	275	295	286	278	268
	23rd	310	298	285	310	275	260	260
	31st	308	298	285	305 (30th)	282	278	280
<i>Aug. 1979</i>	7th	306	295	295	305	285 (6th)	273 (6th)	283
	16th	309	293	285	300	284	275	285
	23rd	306	294	280	300 (21st)	283	278	286
	31st	312	305	290 (17th)	300 (27th)	280	276	286
<i>Sep. 1979</i>	7th	350	333 (4th)	330	300 (27th)	322	314	306
	15th	314	305	290	210	282	276	295
	22nd	298	295	290	296 (21st)	283	280 (15th)	280
	28th	296	295 (27th)	290	296 (22nd)	274	270 (21st)	279
<i>Oct. 1979</i>	6th	296		285	300 (15th)	276	272	282
	15th	297		285	320 (12th)	277	273	278
	22nd	N.R.		285	296 (19th)	275	272	277
	31st	298		290	296	277	273	772
<i>Nov. 1979</i>	7th	300		300	300	284	282	285
	15th	300		295	300 (14th)	283	281	286
	22nd	300		295	300	283	281	287
	30th	300		298	335	283 (29th)	281 (29th)	289
<i>Dec. 1979</i>	7th	324		350	375	283 (4th)	281 (4th)	308
	15th	324		340 (10th)	390 (14th)	283 (4th)	281 (4th)	308
	22nd	500		313 (18th)	410	485 (21st)	480 (21st)	485
	31st	475		480	420	437	432	480

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jan. 1980	7th	450		430 (8th)	430	442	437	465
	14th	445		440	420	422	417	410
	22nd	443		430	445 (19th)	427	424	420
	30th	452		435	470	485	480	470
Feb. 1980	7th	490		480	500	528	525	518 (8th)
	15th	530		490	525 (12th)	585	580	555
	22nd	585		598	580	640	637	665
	29th	585		590 (27th)	690	648	642	645
Mar. 1980	7th	578		570 (1st)	590 (4th)	575	570	615 (5th)

Reconsideration of Present System of Distribution of L.P. Gas

823. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reconsider the present system of distribution of L.P.G. through private companies or individuals;

(b) whether the complaints regarding maldistribution of LPG through these agencies has any bearing on the reconsideration of the present policy of distribution;

(c) whether Government propose to hand over the entire distribution to consumers' cooperatives; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) There is no proposal at present to reconsider the present system of L.P.G. distribution, as the existing system is by and large working satisfactorily.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Deterioration in Tele-communication Service

824. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware from the complaints and the Press reports like the Special Edition of the Illustrated Weekly of India (February, 1980) about the steep deterioration in the working of tele-communications services especially telephones in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government would order a high level enquiry to examine the matter in detail to save the system from collapse;

(c) the likely date by which the enquiry would be ordered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tone up the functioning of the telecommunications services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) The department has noticed a certain measure of deterioration in certain exchanges during the past three years. The source of information is the