

could not arrange to sell levy sugar from the ration shops and that retail price of sugar in the open market in West Bengal has shot up to more than Rs. 6 per kilogramme; and

(e) if so, what is the exact position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). There was decontrol of sugar during the period 16-8-1978 to 16-12-1979 and partial control on sugar was reimposed with effect from 17-12-1979. Further it is levy sugar which is allotted to the State Governments for distribution through fair price shops and so far as free sale sugar is concerned, no such allocation is made to the States. The total quantity of levy sugar allotted to West Bengal, month-wise from 17-12-79 to May, 1980 is given below:—

Month	Quantity of levy sugar allotted (tonnes)
1. 17-12-1979 to 31-12-1979	8109
2. January, 1980	22015.3
3. February, 1980	22015.3
4. March, 1980	22018.5
5. April, 1980	22018.5
6. May, 1980	22018.15

(c) While no levy sugar was made available by the Food Corporation of India to West Bengal Government during 17-12-1979 to 31-1-1980, the quantity of sugar supplied during February, 1980 was 1682 tonnes.

(d) and (e). Immediately after the reintroduction of partial control on sugar with effect from 17-12-1979, some operational difficulties arising out of transport bottlenecks were experienced, particularly due to inadequate availability of railway wagons, shortage of diesel etc., which impeded the pace of lifting/movement of sugar from the factories in the initial stages. This

hampered the distribution of levy sugar through fair price shops for some time immediately after the reintroduction of partial control on 17-12-1979. However, so far as rise in open market prices is concerned, it is a general feature in all the markets in the country and is mainly due to steep decline in sugar production in 1979-80 season and reduction in the overall availability of all the sweetening agents namely, sugar, gur and khandsari.

The difficulties experienced in initial stages were substantially overcome subsequently and movement of levy sugar to West Bengal was arranged by special rakes from the factories in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. This accelerated the pace of lifting from the factories and upto 30-6-1980 Food Corporation of India despatched 1,21,427.1 tonnes of levy sugar to West Bengal as against the total allotment of 1,40,192.3 tonnes of levy sugar upto June 1980.

National Book Development Council

4901. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering establishment of National Book Development Council, Book Financial Corporation and Institute of Publishing on the recommendations of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; and

(b) if so, on what basis cash assistance schemes and financial aid is envisaged for establishing a National Book Development Council?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION & HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

F.C.I. Godowns on Rent in Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat

4902. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that many godowns of F.C.I. in Saurashtra and

Kutch in Gujarāt have been taken on rent;

(b) if so, the number and places of such godowns and the amount paid as rent during the last three years;

(c) the storage capacity of each godown; and

(d) what are the plans, programmes and estimates for the construction of godowns by Food Corporation of India by itself so as to save the amount paid as high rents?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO) (a)

to (c). A statement showing the centres and the capacity taken on rent in Saurashtra and Kutch regions is attached. A total amount of Rs. 1.60 crores has been paid by Food Corporation of India as rent to public and private agencies during the last three years in the entire state of Gujarat. Separate figures of rent paid for the two regions are not readily available.

(d) Godowns are built or hired by the Food Corporation of India having regard to the operational requirements of space. The Corporation has now planned construction of 50,000 tonnes owned capacity at Kāndla to meet the anticipated requirement of storage space.

Statement

Details of capacity taken on hire by Food Corporation of India in Saurashtra and Kutch regions in Gujarat

(Figures in M.T.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Public	Private	Total
1.	Rajkot	6233	8459	14692
2.	Bhavnagar	33153	..	33153
3.	Jamnagar	7333	8383	15716
4.	Chorwad	..	5000	5000
5.	Surendranagar	..	19200	19200
6.	Rozi	2600	..	2000
7.	Morvi	3769	..	3769
8.	Amreli	1149	..	1149
9.	Navlakhi	1843	..	1843
10.	Kandla	377760	..	377760
TOTAL		433840	41042	474882