

Request for increase in Sugarcane Price

5828. SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions from the Committee of the Indian Sugar Mills Association to raise the statutory minimum sugarcane price from Rs. 12.50 to Rs. 15.00 in view of increase in prices of agriculture inputs involved; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

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

(b) The fixing of the statutory minimum sugarcane price for 1980-81 season is under consideration of the Government and the decision in this regard will be announced before the start of the crushing season after consultation with the concerned State Governments and concerned associations.

Shortage of F.C.I. Godowns in U.P.

5829. SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are shortages of godowns owned by the Food Corporation of India in U.P. for the storage of large quantities of foodgrains etc.;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) how many such godowns have been owned and constructed by Food Corporation of India from 1st April, 1976 to 31st March, 1980 and expenses incurred on each construction in various parts of U.P.; and

(d) how many godowns have been acquired on rent during the said period and what are the terms and conditions of acquisition or hiring as also rate of rent of such godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The overall storage facilities with the Food Corporation of India are adequate for the level of stocks with the Corporation in Uttar Pradesh. Appropriate measures have also been taken to meet the pressure on storage capacity felt during the peak procurements seasons.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) As on 1-6-1980, the Food Corporation of India had covered godowns of 14.54 lakh tonnes capacity hired from public and private sources. The Corporation hires godowns by two methods.

(i) Ready-built godowns from private parties are hired by it for a specified period which is renewable. The rent of such godowns is fixed on the basis of prevailing local market rates depending upon the location of the godown as also on its specifications and varies from place to place. The field officers of Food Corporation of India can hire/dehire such godowns on operational considerations.

(ii) An ARDC (Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation) assisted scheme has been launched by the Food Corporation of India to encourage private parties to construct godowns as per FCI approved specifications for renting them out to the Corporation on guaranteed occupation basis of 3-5 years. The broad terms and conditions under this scheme are indicated below:—

(a) Godowns are built by private parties as per specifications of Food Corporation of India and the minimum storage capacity is 5,000 tonnes.

(b) The rent ceiling fixed in such cases is 40 paise per sq. ft. per month for rural areas and 50 paise per sq. ft. per month for urban areas.