

**Fair Price for Sugarcane**

53. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have looked into the reports that enormous standing sugarcane crops had been destroyed by burning or otherwise last year when sugar prices had crashed and the farmer could not get reasonable price for sugarcane;

(b) if so, how much of standing sugarcane crops had been burnt or destroyed; and

(c) what steps have been taken this year to ensure fair return for their crops of sugarcane to encourage and boost up production of sugarcane and sugar, to avert such critical condition and scarcity of sugar next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). There were no reports of destroying of cane crop by burning or otherwise during 1979-80. However, some reports during 1977-78 season about leftover cane had been seen in Press, but in the absence of any official report the quantum cannot be estimated. To ensure crushing of leftover cane, the factories had been given incentives for prolonging crushing operations during 1977-78.

(c) The Government have fixed a higher statutory minimum cane price of Rs. 13.00 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery with full proportionate premium for recoveries above that level, as compared to Rs. 12.50 per quintal fixed last year. Considering the capacity of factories to pay higher prices, the Prime Minister has also advised that actual minimum cane price of Rs. 16.00 per quintal may be paid by the factories in all the States.

**Benefit to Farmers under S.F.D.A. and I.R.D. Scheme**

54. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state the number of Small and Marginal Farmers who have been benefited under the Small Farmers Development Agency and the Integrated Rural Development Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): Assistance is provided under the Small Farmers' Development Programme and the Integrated Rural Development Programme to small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and others below the "poverty line". Under the Small Farmers' Development Agency Programme, 80,33,802 families were provided benefits since the inception of the programme in 1970-71 till June, 1980. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme 22,26,886 families were provided assistance since the inception of the programme in 1978-79 till June, 1980.

**Open Market Price of Sugar in Delhi**

55. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly prices of sugar in open market and Super Bazars in Delhi during the last three months; and

(b) the reasons of price variation, steps taken and the results in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The wholesale and retail prices of free-sale sugar in Delhi during the last three months are indicated below: