

gation reservoirs and channels, fishery tanks of water hyacinth and turning it into organic manures or construction of storage lines.

### **Increase in Price of Bread**

136. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the price of Britannia and Modern Bread; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Central Government had concurred in a proposal from Delhi Administration to revise the statutorily fixed prices of Bread in Delhi, in September, 1980. The revised prices are, however, applicable to all Brands of bread.

(b) The increase ranging between 5 and 15 paise was necessitated because of increase in the cost of maida, sugar, oil, yeast, wrappers and other ingredients used in the production of bread as also distribution costs.

### **Sugar Policy**

137. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been urged to fully decontrol the sugar and give up the present sugar policy; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to this effect has been made by the Indian Sugar Mills Association.

(b) After careful consideration, Government of India have decided to continue the present policy of partial control with dual pricing system.

### **High Prices and Non-availability of Sugar**

138. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the eve of Janamashtmi and Dussehra and Id, the sugar crisis reached a record high;

(b) if so, whether apart from high prices sugar was not available in many parts of the country;

(c) if so, how many persons were arrested and action taken against them;

(d) whether Government fixed a price of sugar at open market at Rs. 6.20 Kg. but the traders also did not respond to this fixed price and continued to charge Rs. 15 or even more from the people;

(e) whether large scale smuggling was also indulged by the traders and a large quantity of sugar was captured by the Government agencies; and

(f) whether, inspite of the large import of sugar this year, the position of sugar is also very acute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). For the festival months of September and October, 1980, Government had made special arrangements for distribution of freesale sugar at fixed prices through State Government agencies under the voluntary offer of the industry to deliver sugar at a fixed ex-factory price of Rs. 450 per quintal exclusive of excise duty to the State Governments for distribution to various categories of consumers at prices fixed around Rs. 6 per Kg. In the absence of this scheme, the price of