

sugar in the open market were expected to be much higher and the scheme helped in making sugar available at reasonable prices.

(c) According to the reports so far received from the State Governments, 25 persons were arrested in Haryana; 6 in Orissa and 3 in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(d) During the months of September and October, 1980, free-sale sugar was distributed either through fair price shops/ration shops or through cooperative agencies, at prices fixed by the State Governments around Rs. 6 per kg. Since the private traders were practically excluded from the distribution arrangements under this scheme, the question of traders not responding or continuing to charge Rs. 15 or more from the people and any large-scale smuggling being indulged into by the traders does not arise.

(e) The possibility of stray cases of sale of sugar by traders at higher prices in respect of their old stocks cannot be ruled out. Adequate steps were however, taken by the State Governments to deal sternly with such anti-social elements. According to the reports received from State Governments, there were very few cases of substantial seizure of sugar stocks by State Governments.

(f) Only a limited quantity of 1.80 lakh tonnes of sugar was imported to tide over the shortage of sugar in 1979-80 season. Since the production of sugar for the new season 1980-81 has already commenced with a sugar-

cane crop better than last year the availability of sugar position is likely to ease considerably during the coming months.

Procurement Price of Foodgrains

139. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI AMAR SINH V.
RATHAWA:

SHRI MADHAV RAO
SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced procurement price of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the prices recommended and to what extent the recommendations of the Agricultural Price Commission were accepted;

(c) how much foodgrains have so far been procured; and

(d) whether proper arrangements have been made for their storage?

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

(b) The procurement prices for different foodgrains recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission for the marketing season 1980-81 and those fixed by the Government of India are indicated below:—

(Price per quintal)

Grain	Recommended by A.P.C	Fixed by Govt.
Wheat	Rs. 117.00	Rs. 117.00
(For the year 1981-82, price recommended by A.P.C. is Rs. 127.00 per quintal and that is under consideration of the Govt.)		
Paddy (Common varieties)	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 105.00
Coarse grains (Jowar, Bajra, Maize & Ragi)	Rs. 97.50	Rs. 105-2

(c) The total quantities of different foodgrains procured in different States during the current marketing season (1980-81) are as follows:

Quantity in thousand tonnes.

Wheat (upto 6.11-1980)	5,852
Paddy and rice in terms of rice (upto 12-11-80)	1,601
Kharif Coarsegrains (upto 12-11-1980)	7.8

(d) For the stocks procured by/delivered to the Food Corporation of India for the Central Pool the Food Corporation have made suitable storage arrangements. The State Governments and their procuring agencies have made proper arrangements for storage of the foodgrains procured by them.

Distribution of Free Sale Sugar by States

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

(a) whether distribution of free sale sugar being entrusted to the State Governments by the Centre has flopped;

(b) if so, whether it has led to country wide blackmarketing;

(c) whether a sizeable quantity of free sale sugar offered by the sugar industry to the Centre at the fixed rates of Rs. 450 per quintal from the 1st September, 1980 is being leaked out to the black market;

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard;

(e) whether Government's firm policy and its implementation is defective which has created this confusion; and

(f) what steps are being taken to put the sugar policy in order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. The reports received from State Governments indicate that, by and large, the scheme for distribution of freesale sugar has been successful.

(b) to (d). While the possibilities of small quantities of free sale sugar having leaked to the black market through unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out, the reports received from the State Governments do not suggest any country-wide black marketing or leakage of sizeable stocks to the black market. Utmost vigilance is, however, being exercised by the State Governments to deal sternly and effectively with anti-social elements.

(e) and (f). The new scheme for supply of free sale sugar at fixed prices was adopted in pursuance of the voluntary offer made by the industry to deliver sugar at a fixed rate of Rs. 450 per quintal ex-factory exclusive of excise duty to the nominees of State Governments for distribution to various categories of consumers at reasonable prices during the festival months of September and October, 1980. The scheme has, by and large, served its purpose. It was operative only upto 15th November, 1980. From 16-11-1980, the policy of monthly releases of levy and free sale sugar quotas, hitherto being followed, has been resumed. The prices of free sale sugar will now be governed by the market forces of demand and supply.

Urban Land Ceiling Act

141. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-

DASAN NADAR:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision to amend the Urban Ceiling Act;