

West District: Rajouri Garden,
Janakpuri.

Central District: Kadam Sharif, Nai-
walan, Southern
Ridge.

Sugarcane crushing by Sugar Mills

958. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugarcane crushing has not yet picked up despite incentives offered for early crushing;

(b) the number of mills in the Southern and Western regions which have gone into operation till the end of October last;

(c) whether in the Western U.P., some of the factories could not even start production during October for want of availability of sugarcane; and

(d) the steps which Government propose to take to ensure optimum production by the mills so as to make easy availability of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary during the current 1980-81 season, 44 factories have commenced crushing operations upto 31st October, 1980 as against only 15 factories during the corresponding period last year.

(b) 13 factories in Southern region and 23 factories in the Western region have started crushing operations during the current year upto 31st October, 1980.

(c) Some factories in Western U.P. have reported about the difficulty in getting cane supply. Normally factories in Western U.P. start crushing from 1st week of November.

(d) The Government have fixed a higher statutory minimum cane price of Rs. 15.00 as against Rs. 12.50 per quintal last year. Considering the capacity of the factories to pay higher

prices, the Prime Minister has also advised State Chief Ministers that actual minimum cane price of Rs. 16.00 per quintal may be paid by the factories in all the States. Instructions have also been issued to the State Governments not to permit the working of khandsari units before 31st Decemehr, 1980 in order to avoid diversion of cane away from sugar mills.

News item "Scientists brainwave falls heavy on F.C.I."

959. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in *Indian Express* on 30th July, 1980 'Scientists brainwave falls heavy on F.C.I.'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

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

(b) For sometime past, there had been complaints both from Kerala and West Bengal regarding the IR-8 pressure par-boiled rice sent to those States from Punjab and Haryana. It was complained that this rice took long time to cook and was, therefore, not acceptable to consumers. On investigation it was found that the rice millers in Punjab and Haryana producing this par-boiled rice were not following the correct procedure for pressure par-boiling through steam. Looking to these complaints, purchase of this variety of rice by Food Corporation of India in Punjab and Haryana was stopped.

Par-boiled rice made out of PR-106 and other superfine varieties has not posed any problem and is acceptable to the consumers in other States.

The stocks of pressure par-boiled IR-8 rice purchased by the F.C.I. are gradually being disposed of in Food For Work Programme, in relief distribution and some quantities have also been exported.

There is nothing wrong with the technique as such and if the rice millers follow the correct method, the rice is acceptable to the consumers.

Steps have been taken to educate the millers in the correct technique of making par-boiled rice through pressure of steam. Teams of experts have visited these two States and demonstrated the correct procedure. Pamphlets explaining the system in detail have also been distributed and the quality Control Teams of both the States as well as the Central Government are keeping a close watch on the process adopted by the millers. These efforts have shown results and the quality of rice made by this method of par-boiling has improved.

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत खाद्यान्न और धन का आवंटन

960. प्रो० रूपचन्द्र पाल :

श्री जमीर्लुर्रहमान :

श्री के० मालन्ना :

श्री सवर सुब्रजी :

क्या ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1980-81 के दौरान, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न राज्यों को, राज्यवार, खाद्यान्न की कितनी मात्रा और कितनी धनराशि आवंटित किये जाने का विचार है ;

(ख) विभिन्न राज्यों को राज्यवार अब तक खाद्यान्न की कितनी मात्रा और कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त कार्यक्रम की गति बहुत धीमी है और यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इस कार्यक्रम की गति में कब तेजी लाई जाएगी ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बालेश्वर राम) : (क) बजट में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार कार्यक्रम के लिए 340 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसके मुकाबले में, कार्यक्रम के लिए कुल 21 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा (जिसमें वर्ष 1979-80 की उपयोग में न लाई गई 7 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा तथा चालू वर्ष के दौरान आवंटित 14 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा शामिल है) वंटित की जा चुकी है। इसके अलावा, सामग्री घटक के लिए 70 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि तथा मजदूरी घटक के लिए 22.40 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि आवंटित की गई है।

(ख) विभिन्न राज्यों को अब तक आवंटित खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा तथा नकद निधियों को दर्शाने वाले विवरण 1 तथा 2 सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया देखिय संख्या एल-टी—1417/80]।

(ग) व (घ) कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत लगभग 10 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा पहले ही उपयोग में लाई जा चुकी है। इस प्रकार उपयोग की गति को धीमी नहीं कहा जा सकता है।

Telephone Facilities in Bombay

961. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a long list of people on the waiting list for allotment of a