

(c) if so, with what results and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) Nearly 100 large crossbar exchanges with a total capacity of about 5.5 lakh lines are already working in the country.

Additional crossbar exchanges are planned to be installed both from indigenous production and by import to meet the growing demands for telephone connections.

(b) This is being done continuously.

(c) There are three major telephone exchange systems in use in the country today namely the manual, strowger and crossbar. Among the three, crossbar system is the more modern and offers several desirable facilities. The performance of crossbar system has been found to be superior to the other two systems. Crossbar exchanges are working in large numbers in other countries including advance countries like the U.S.A. and Japan and a large number of crossbar lines are still being added each year to their existing exchanges.

Production, Demand and Price of Sugar

*91. **SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total production of sugar during last year and the total demand during that period; and

(b) the details regarding the price of open sale of sugar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The sugar production during 1979-80 season was 38.59 lakh tonnes. The demand for sugar varies from time to time in accordance with the prices and availability of sugar together with

price and availability of other sweetening agents namely gur and khand-sari on different occasions. The total off-take of sugar for internal consumption during 1979-80 season was about 5 lakh tonnes.

(b) The month end wholesale sugar prices for the free sale in the important markets of the country during the last three sugar years namely 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80 are shown in the statement laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1407/80].

ग्राम पंचायतों के चुनाव और लोक-तांत्रिक संस्थाओं को मजबूत करने के बारे में मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त

*92. **श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा :** क्या ग्रामीण पुर्ननिर्माण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ग्राम पंचायतों, पंचायत समितियों और जिला परिषदों के लिए चुनाव गत कई वर्षों से नहीं कराये गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार इन लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं को मजबूत करने और सक्रिय बनाने के लिए सभी राज्यों को कुछ मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त जारी करने का है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बालेश्वर राम) : (क) से (घ). अधिकांश राज्यों तथा केन्द्रशासित क्षेत्रों में ग्राम पंचायतों, पंचायत समितियों और जिला परिषदों के चुनाव आमतौर पर निर्धारित समय पर हुए हैं।

सभी राज्यों में पंचायती राज को स्वीकृत नीति मान लिया गया है तथा पंचायती राज निकायों को वित्तीय संसाधनों के हस्तान्तरण के साथ-साथ कई शक्तियां तथा कार्य सौंपे गए हैं ताकि वे इन कार्यों को कारगर रूप से पूरा कर सकें। राज्य सरकारें इन संस्थाओं के लाभप्रद विकास को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए सामान्यतः यथोचित ध्यान दे रही हैं। केन्द्रीय कृषि मंत्री ने पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को मजबूत बनाने की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हुए हाल ही में मुख्य मंत्रियों को पत्र लिखा है और उनसे अनुरोध किया है कि वे अपने राज्यों में चुनाव, जहां कहीं भी होते रहते हों करावें। केन्द्रीय सरकार का राज्यों को कोई अन्य मार्गदर्शक सिद्धान्त जारी करने का प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Launching of National Rural Employment Programme

*93. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN-
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) when the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) was proposed to be launched;

(b) whether the programme has been launched and if not, the reasons for delay in its launching; and

(c) when the programme is now expected to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c). The National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) has replaced the Food for Work Programme and is already in operation. Releases of foodgrains as also of cash funds have been made to the State Government/Union Territories under the Programme.

Utilisation of capacity of storage under National Grid of Rural Godowns

*94. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what storage capacity has been created (State-wise) under the Scheme for establishing National Grid of Rural Godowns for storage of agricultural produce since 1979 and the cost incurred thereon; and

(b) the extent of monthly utilization of this storage capacity from November, 1979 to October, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) No storage capacity has so far been created under the scheme for establishment of a National Grid of Rural Godowns. Proposals for creation of storage capacity of 37,000 M. tonnes in Uttar Pradesh and 10,000 M. Tonnes in Andhra Pradesh have so far been approved. First instalment of the Central share of subsidy amounting to Rs. 12.87 lakhs in case of Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 3.125 lakhs in case of Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned.

(b) The question does not arise

गन्ने का कम मूल्य

*95. श्री फूल चन्द्र वर्मा :

श्री-अमर राय प्रधान :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गन्ना उत्पादकों को दिया जा रहा मूल्य बहुत कम है और इससे निरुत्साहित होकर उन्होंने अन्य फसलों उगाना शुरू कर दिया है ;