

for Uttar Pradesh in 1971. Similarly varieties like Panidhan-1 and Panidhan-2 were developed in 1972 and Jaladhi-1 and Jaladhi-2 in the mid seventies in West Bengal. Recently varieties like, Habiganj 4-1, CMS 13, DW 48, and GT 93 suitable for deep water areas in U.P. only; DKN 6986-173-5, VR 223-8-38 and CHAMARA for Bihar and CN 643 and CN 540 suitable for the States of U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa have been developed.

Safety Devices for Sugarcane Crushers

2518. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have found safety devices to sugarcane crushers to protect the agriculturists and the agricultural labourers from losing their fingers and hands ; and

(b) if so, whether Government are insisting the manufacturers of these sugarcane crushers to have these safety devices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) and (b). An Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Director, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal, has identified designs of safety devices for different types of sugarcane crushers. Indian Standard Institution is formulating standards on the basis of these designs.

The recommendations of the Committee, which have been sent to the States for implementation, include action to ensure that no sugarcane crushers are manufactured without safety devices.

Memorandum from Maharashtra State Cooperative Factories Sugar Federation

2519. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received a memorandum from the Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation expressing their concern at the abrupt fall in free market sugar prices below economic level ;

(b) if so, what are the details and main demands of the federation mentioned in their memorandum ; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take on each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) to (c). In communications recently received from the Federation, concern has been expressed over fall in the open market price of sugar. The Federation has stated that the price crashed in June, 1981, and continued to be low till the end of August, 1981. It has also stated that the additional release of 40,000 tonnes of free sale sugar for October, 1981, had an adverse effect on the price. In connection with the downward trend in price, the Federation demanded immediate stoppage of further import of sugar, more judicious monthly sugar releases to safeguard the interests of the consumers and the cane growers and to stabilise the price around Rs. 650 per quintal, and the creation of a buffer stock through smaller releases.

Government keeps a close watch on the trend of sugar price. There is no proposal under consideration,

at present, to import sugar. Monthly sugar releases are made keeping in view availability and demand. It has been decided, in principle, to create a buffer stock, during the current sugar year, to the extent possible.

Energisation of Pump sets and Tube-wells

2520. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government plans to energise 5.3 million electric pump sets by 1983 besides 45,000 deep public tubewells ;

(b) if so, whether Government also considers measures to ensure regular power supply to most of these wells now running at half of their efficiency because of irregular supply;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that some States with 20 per cent of the total ground water resources had half of the total number pump sets in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the other measures being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Energisation of pump sets is a continuing process along with installation of new wells, tube wells, etc. The State Electricity Boards carry out the energisation programme in almost all the States in the country.

During the Sixth Plan (1980-85), the number of electrical pump sets (which also includes these installed on deep public tubewells) is proposed to be increased by 2.5 million numbers from 3.95 million (March, 1980) to 6.45 million (March, 1985). By the end of March, 1983, it is proposed to energise 5.24 million pump sets in all,

including about 45,000 public tube-wells.

(b) Power supply to agricultural pump sets will be done by respective State Electricity Boards. It is already included in Group A which is the highest priority category as per guidelines issued by the Central Government to the States. It has also been emphasised by the Central Government that utmost priority needs to be given for power supply for agriculture and that a minimum power supply for 8 to 10 hours per day be ensured.

(c) It is true that some of the States have gone ahead faster in the programme of energisation of irrigation pumpsets and successfully exploited a higher percentage of their ground water potential. This is mainly because of paucity of any other source of water for irrigation.

(d) In the Sixth Plan (1980-85), due emphasis has been laid for accelerating the energisation of pump sets among the States which have larger un-utilised ground water potential and also for conjunctive use of ground and surface water.

Recommendations of National Commission on Agriculture

2511. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture had been accepted by Government ; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations so far examined and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) So far, out of 2361 recommendations made by the