

the Union Government to remove the various restrictions on sugar trade;

(d) if so, whether they have pointed out that these restrictions outlived their utility in view of the comfortable supplies; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The all-India average ex-factory price of levy sugar has increased from Rs. 284.56 per quintal in 1980-81 to Rs. 294.56 per quintal (including Rs. 5 per quintal to be collected as Development Cess) for 1981-82. The new prices were notified on 10th November, 1981.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) The sugar season has just started. Though availability and the price situation are satisfactory at present, the Government consider that it is not opportune now to make any relaxation in the controls over sugar trade.

Scheme for Promoting Cultivation of Vegetable around cities

3697. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to initiate a new scheme for promoting intensive cultivation of vegetable around selective cities in the country;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been prepared;

(c) whether the main objective is to enquire smooth supply of vegetable to the city markets and also to generate some surplus for export; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being taken and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE

AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scheme prepared by this Ministry has been approved by the Planning Commission. It is being further processed for getting the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee.

Results will only be achieved when the scheme starts functioning in the field.

Establishment of National Horticulture Board

3698. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are considering a proposal for the establishment of National Horticultural Board;

(b) if so, by what time the final decision for its constitution is likely to be taken;

(c) whether this proposed Board would help growers to organise themselves besides providing services;

(d) what are the other objects of the Board; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that in addition to this Government have decided to set up a task force to prepare a suitable horticultural development programme for the North-Eastern region to boost horticultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No definite time schedule can be fixed at this stage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At the National level, the proposed National Horticulture Board