

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

would be required to provide the needed degree of coordination and monitoring of the production and marketing of horticultural crops.

(e) Yes, Sir. A task Force is being set-up for Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim.

Land Prices in Gujarat

3699. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that land prices in the major cities of Gujarat, especially in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, etc., have risen more than ten to fifteen-fold in recent years;

(b) whether Government are aware that in the last two years, rents have shot up by 100 to 200 per cent and that black money has poured into the city's construction activities on a major scale;

(c) whether under-valuation of real estate in sales transactions had cost the State exchequer crores of rupees in registration revenue;

(d) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad and Baroda, once reported to be cities with cheap living, which have the fastest population growth rate, are the costliest cities as far as housing is concerned, and

(e) if so, steps taken to curb spurt in land prices in these cities as the Urban Land Ceiling Act does not seem to have achieved the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Supply of Butter and Milk

3700. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why no steps have so far been taken to ease the situation in making available butter, vanaspathi ghee, baby food, etc. which are in short supply for such a long time; and

(b) steps taken to make Delhi Milk Scheme pure ghee available in the open market or at least through the outlets of Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society, Ltd., New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The supply position of butter, vanaspathi ghee and baby food has been generally satisfactory except localised shortages of temporary nature.

(b) The Delhi Milk Scheme manufactures ghee only out of surplus fat after meeting the requirements for liquid milk. Efforts are being made to procure maximum quantity of raw milk during the flush period so that surplus fat is available for manufacture of ghee. The Delhi Milk Scheme has set up 13 All Day Milk Stalls in the various Government offices and as soon as the scheme is in a position to manufacture and market adequate quantities of ghee, the same will be made available through All Day Milk Stalls.

Agitation in Food Corporation of India

3701. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Joint Council of the Food Corporation of India Employees Union and Executive Employees Federation have planned to intensify their agitation if manage-