

consideration the cost of transportation, harvesting and the interest on the storage of levy sugar, and other incidental expenditure; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the criteria followed by Government for fixing the price of levy sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Levy prices of sugar are determined on the basis of the minimum statutory cane prices notified by the Central Government. These prices are payable for delivery of cane at factory gate upto a limit. As such, the statutory minimum cane price takes into account charges for harvesting and transportation up to this limit. Additional transportation cost over this limit to the extent recognised by expert price bodies is also allowed. Interest on working capital, which includes interest on storage of sugar, is also a part of the price of levy sugar.

(b) The ex-factory prices of levy sugar are determined with reference to the provisions of section 3 (3C) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and on the basis of the cost schedules and other parameters recommended by the High Level Committee on Sugar Industry which submitted its report in October, 1980.

Buffer Stocks in Sugar

1347. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a five lakh tonnes sugar buffer stock from this season's production;

(b) whether Government also propose to create a fund for modernisation and rehabilitation of sick and weak sugar units;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal;

(d) how Government propose to meet the storage, interest and godown charges relating to the buffer stock; and

(e) whether Government also propose to export sugar this year and if so, in what quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Government have decided, in principle, to create a buffer stock of sugar. The quantum of the buffer and the modalities of its operation have not yet been worked out.

(b) and (c). Government have decided to create a Development Fund for giving assistance for the rehabilitation and modernisation of sugar mills, for cane development and for research schemes.

(d) As mentioned in the answer to part (a), the modalities of the operation of the buffer stock have not yet been worked out.

(e) The ban on sugar exports has been lifted. The total quantity to be exported till the end of the sugar year would depend on the quota to be fixed for the country under the International Sugar Agreement.

Loss of Crop due to Insects, Pests and other Diseases

1348. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great loss of crops due to insects, pests and other diseases in the country;