

(d) did Government appoint a team of experts to study the feasibility of the project;

(e) what is the result of their report; and

(f) is there any proposal for the revival of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND
HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH): (a) to (f) Drinking Water
Supply is a State subject. Accordingly,
details in respect of the Veeramam Project
will be available with the Government of
Tamil Nadu. As far as the Central Gov-
ernment is aware, the Veeramam project
has been abandoned and the Government
of Tamil Nadu is considering alternative
proposals for bringing water from either
Cauvery or Krishna rivers for Madras
City. No final decision on the source of
water has been communicated by the State
Government so far.

LOW CONSUMPTION OF FERTILIZER DUE TO
HIGH PRICE

3686. SHRI B. V. DESAI :
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHE-
KARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether the high prices of fertilizers
is one major reason for the slow-down in
the growth rate of fertilizer consumption
in the country in the face of a pick-up in
the production of fertilizers;

(b) whether the reckoning was that with
the steep hikes effected in fertilizers prices,
the subsidy would get drastically reduced
but this calculation has gone away;

(c) whether it is also a fact that for
1981-82 the fertilizer subsidy was of the
order of Rs. 365 crores and for 1982-83
the subsidy is estimated to touch the
Rs. 600 crore mark;

(d) if so, whether according to this
reduction in fertilizer prices will not be
feasible; and

(e) if so, what steps Government pro-
pose to take in view of the situation that
the high prices of fertilizers have reduced

the growth rate of fertilizer consumption
in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V.
SWAMINATHAN) : (a) to (e) The con-
sumption of fertilizer is a function of a
number of factors, like, weather conditions,
irrigation types of crops, availability of
credit, prices of fertilizers, etc. During
1980-81 prices of fertilizers were increased
by about 38% and during 1981-82, by
another about 17.5%. These increases had
to be done because of galloping increase
in the cost of raw materials, transportation
etc. However, in order to minimise the
effect of the above price increases, the
Government have taken the following
steps :—

- (i) While fixing the Support/Pro-
curement price the Agriculture
Prices Commission takes into
account the element of increase
in prices of fertilizers;
- (ii) the subsidies on fertilizers to
Small and Marginal Farmers are
being allowed under Integrated
Rural Development Programme;
- (iii) Government have underlined the
need for efficient use of fertilizers.
- (iv) fertilizers are being delivered upto
Block Headquarters at Govern-
ment cost; and
- (v) Reserve Bank of India have been
advised to ensure availability of
adequate credit to the farmers.

As a result of the above steps, the fertili-
zer consumption went up both in 1980-81
and 1981-82 in spite of the increase in the
prices of fertilizers as will be seen from
the following :—

Year	Consumption (in lakh tonnes) (N+P+K)
1979-80	52.55
1980-81	55.16
1981-82	60.64

During 1979-80, the subsidy on fertili-
zer was Rs. 602.67 crores. During 1980-
81 it was observed that at 1979-80 prices,
the subsidy level would increase to nearly

Rs. 1200 crores. In order to contain the subsidy to a reasonable level, prices had to be increased. As a result subsidy went down to Rs. 505 crores in 1980-81. With the increase in 1981-82, the subsidy went down further to Rs. 365 crores. The subsidy during 1982-83 will depend on the quantum of indigenous production and import.

SUPPLY OF SUGAR TO BIHAR

3687. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE please to lay a statement showing :

(a) the total quantity and per capita quantity of sugar supplied, State-wise, in the whole country and district-wise to Bihar; and

(b) what are the causes for the disproportionate supply to Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI) : (a) and (b) Against the monthly levy sugar quotas being allocated to various States, 19 State Governments/Union Territories are themselves

arranging the lifting of sugar from the concerned factories and supply thereof to the fair price shops, while in the case of remaining 12 States/Union Territories including Bihar, these operations are being performed by the Food Corporation of India.

2. The State-wise monthly levy sugar quotas were re-fixed with effect from April, 1982 on the basis of 425 grams of per capita availability with reference to the population as on 1-3-1981. The earlier monthly quotas of a few States/Union Territories giving a higher per capita availability were not reduced, that is, the same were maintained at the earlier higher level. The quantum of State-wise monthly levy sugar quotas for distribution through fair price shops and the per capita availability therefrom are shown in the statement at Appendix. Thus, the monthly levy sugar quotas of various States have been fixed on the basis of a uniform criteria and there is no disproportionate allocation to Bihar. Central Government allocate the quotas for the State as a whole and the district-wise sub-allocation is done by the State Governments themselves.

STATEMENT

State-wise monthly levy sugar quotas ensuring per capita availability of 425 grams on the basis of population as on 1-3-1981 (effective from April, 1982)

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Population as on 1-3-1981	Quota ensuring per capita availability of 425 gms. (tonnes)	States whose per capita availability out of earlier quota is higher than 425 grams
1	2	3	4	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53403619	22696	
2.	Assam	19902826	8459	
3.	Mizoram	487774	207	
4.	Bihar	69823154	29675	
5.	Gujarat	33960905	14433	
6.	Haryana	12850902	5462	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4237569	1801	
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5981600	2542	
9.	Kerala	2540721	10796	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	52131717	22156	
11.	Maharashtra	62693898	26645	
12.	Karnataka	37043451	15743	
13.	Nagaland	773281	340	Nagaland 440 grams
14.	Orissa	26272054	11166	
15.	Punjab	16669755	7085	
16.	Rajasthan	34102912	14494	