

Uneconomic Cost of Production of Sugar

5570. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some of the States during the last eight months the price of free sale sugar was below the levy sugar price and as a result of this many sugar mills surrendered their free sale sugar quota and used the levy sugar price and reaped profit while the people were denied the benefit of the low price;

(b) if so, names of the sugar mills in the country who had indulged in the above practice and the margin of profit they have earned over the sale that they would have been compelled to incur if they had to sell sugar at free price; and

(c) if so; what steps Government contemplate to take to ensure that this is not indulged in the future and the details of the rules/directive framed in this regard for compliance by the sugar mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) In the case of certain sugar factories in some of the States the ex-factory realisations from the sale of freesale sugar during the last few months were reported to be lower than the prices fixed for levy sugar. Request was received from some of the factories that their freesale portion out of 1981-82 season's production may be procured by the Government at prices fixed for levy sugar for public distribution. No such request was accepted and each factory has been required to sell and deliver its due freesale quota in open market irrespective of the consideration whether the open market prices are lower or higher than the prices of levy sugar.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

(c) In respect of each factory its due entitlement of levy and freesale sugar out of a particular season's production is worked out in accordance with the prescribed percentages. The levy and free sale entitlements so worked out are released separately under the release orders prescribed for levy and freesale sugar. In the case of each factory it is ensured that ultimately its entire freesale portion as released under free sale release orders is sold and delivered in open market while its entire levy portion as released under levy release orders is sold and delivered at controlled prices. These release orders are issued under statutory provisions and any violation thereof is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Utilisation of Funds from Cane Development Fund and Cess Fund for Expansion of sugar Mills

5571. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of money with the cane development fund and cane cess fund as on 31 December 1982;

(b) whether out of these funds, Government have given any loan or grant to any sugar factory for the purpose of their expansion or setting up new units;

(c) if so, the names of such units and the amounts of loan given to each;

(d) whether Government feel that the utilisation of these funds is being done properly and it has helped in the growth of sugar allied industry particularly in the cooperative and in the rural areas; and

(e) if not, what steps are being

contemplated to achieve these objectives in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) An amount of over Rs. 28.19 crores has been deposited by the sugar mills in the Government account upto the end of December, 1982 on account of cess on sugar levied under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982. Transfer of Rs. 40 crores from the Consolidated Fund of India during 1982-83, out of the estimated amount of cess collected upto 31.3.1983, for credit to the Fund set up under the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, has been sanctioned.

(b) No, Sir. The Fund can be utilised for the purposes mentioned in the relevant Act. The Act does not specifically provide for grant of any assistance to a sugar factory for the purpose of its expansion or for setting up new units.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The procedure for grant of assistance from the Fund is to be prescribed in the rules to be framed under the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982. The rules are at an advanced stage of processing and are likely to be finalised in the near future.

Introduction of National Cropping Pattern

5572. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of introducing a national cropping pattern for wheat, rice, oilseed, pulses and other cash crops in a more scientific manner than as at present so as to get the maximum yield from the land;

(b) if so, what is the proposal of Government in this regard;

(c) what will be the pattern of rotation for the dry land farming and irrigated farming; and

(d) by what time a final decision in this regard will be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d) Cropping pattern in a particular area depends upon agro-climatic conditions, economic condition of the farmers, availability of resources, infrastructure, marketing, availability of water/irrigation, rainfall and its pattern, profitability of the crop and the level of technical know-how. Since these conditions vary considerably in various parts of the country, no uniform national cropping pattern can be adopted. However, it is the endeavour of the Government to increase the intensity of cropping and production per unit of area through the adoption of scientific crop management practices.

All India Workshop of Indian Council of Agricultural Research

5573. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a five day All India Workshop of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was scheduled to be held at Akola in February, 1983 to review and undertake projects in tribal areas which will lead to tribal welfare;

(b) if so, which are the specific plans that have been formulated at the meeting; and

(c) how many of these projects are going to be implemented for the tribals in Maharashtra and by what time they will be taken in hand ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

The Third Workshop of the All