

(2) Ensuring favourable cost-benefit ratio by increasing the support prices of crops to reflect the increase in fertiliser prices.

(3) Delivery of fertilisers upto Block Headquarters on Government account all over the country.

(4) Increase in the distribution margin by about 22% w.e.f. 15.8.81 on ad-hoc basis pending in-depth study.

(5) Opening of over 20,000 additional sale points during the year 1982-83 in order to ensure easy availability of fertilisers near the consuming centres.

(6) Launching Intensive Fertiliser Promotion Campaign in selected districts where consumption potential exists and at present the consumption is low.

(7) Increasing the short term loan to the States for purchase and distribution of inputs, including fertilisers, from Rs. 136 crores in 1979-80 to Rs. 200 crores in 1980-81 and also 1981-82 and to Rs. 250 crores in 1982-83.

(8) Subsidy on phosphatic and potassic fertilisers to the small and marginal farmers @ 25% and 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %, respectively and to Tribal farmers @ 50% under Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Development of Fisheries Harbour in Shivrajpur, Gujarat

6573. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the site of Shivrajpur was selected for development of fisheries harbour in Gujarat State ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbour Bangalore has conducted the survey and has submitted its report to Government ; and

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions made and the action taken by Government to clear the Project ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the recommendations of the Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbours Project, the Government of Gujarat has been advised to complete the model studies and other preliminaries.

Canal Joining Nepal with Bangladesh Through India

6574. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladesh has proposed to Nepal to build a canal joining the landlocked Himalayan Kingdom with Bangladesh through India ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) how far it will go in augmenting the dry season flow of water in Ganga if water storages are built in Nepal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No authentic information is available if Bangladesh has made a proposal to Nepal to build a canal joining the land-locked Kingdom with Bangladesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) If water storages are built in Nepal this could give multi-purpose benefits to Nepal and the Indian areas nearby but it would not provide augmentation of the flows in the Ganga in its lower reaches.

Reduction in Price of Levy Sugar

6575. SHRI R.N. RAKESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of levy sugar, being supplied through public distribution has been reduced after a cut in the excise duty ;

(b) whether sugar mills have passed the

excise relief to the consumers fully by reducing the price of free sale sugar ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) In arriving at the present uniform retail price of levy sugar fixed w.e.f. 1.12.1982, excise duty was taken at the specific rate of Rs. 38/- per quintal (which came into effect from 1.3.1983) even though the rate of excise duty leviable at that time, that is, prior to 1.3.1983 was 13.175 per cent ad-valorem and its incidence at that rate worked out to an all-India average of Rs. 38.96 per quintal. No reduction in the uniform price was, therefore, called for.

(b) and (c). Prior to 1.3.1983, the excise duty on free sale sugar was leviable at the rate of 15.9 percent ad-valorem which worked out to Rs. 52.47 per quintal on the tariff value of Rs. 330/- per quintal fixed for February, 1983. From 1.3.1983, the excise duty on free sale sugar is being levied at the specific rate of Rs. 50/- per quintal bringing about, thereby, a marginal reduction of Rs. 2.47 per quintal.

The ex-factory as well as retail prices of free sale sugar depend entirely on the market forces of demand and supply. Therefore, it is not possible to correlate the sugar prices in the open market with any increase or decrease in the quantum of excise duty.

Fall in Agricultural Production in Eastern States

6576. **SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :
SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA :**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a steep fall in agricultural production and productivity in eastern States like Bihar, Orissa and occurred in recent years ;

(b) whether it is proposed to study the problem of agricultural development of the region ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to fulfil the

potential level of production and other measures in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) In recent years, agricultural production and productivity in the eastern States like Bihar and Orissa have been fluctuating. The main contributory factors are aberrant weather and natural calamities.

(b) The problems of agricultural development in the eastern States are continuously under review.

(c) Government have taken a number of measures for increasing agricultural production and is continuously monitoring their implementation. These include, inter alia, the following :

(i) Intensive research to improve productivity ;

(ii) Popularisation of improved practices, plant nutrients and plant protection measures ;

(iii) Expansion of irrigation and coverage under high yielding varieties of seeds ;

(iv) Distribution of seed minikits ;

(v) Extension of credit facilities ; and

(vi) Remunerative price policy and marketing support.

Purchase of Edible Oils

6577. **SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY :
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :**
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision about the quantum of edible oil to be purchased during 1983 ;

(b) which would be the purchasing authority ;

(c) whether this will be purchased on a Government to Government basis or through the agents ; and