

### Fixation of Minimum Statutory price of Sugarcane

67. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre had fixed the minimum statutory price for sugarcane for the current crushing season as recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Famine in Orissa

68. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to save Orissa from impending famine in view of the successive natural calamities like cyclone flood and drought during 1982;

(b) the steps taken to check distress sale of moveable assets and starvation deaths including migration of the people from the State;

(c) the shortfall of grains in Orissa and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the same on an emergent basis, to restore public distribution system and to check exploitation by unscrupulous traders;

(d) the relief and rehabilitation measures taken to help the farmers; and

(e) the long term measures planned to deal with natural calamities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) According to the Memorandum on drought (Post-monsoon, 1982-83)/report received from the Govt. of Orissa, the State Government have taken the following measures:

(i) 91.691 qtls. of seeds at subsidised rates, free plant protection measures for 60.000 ha. raising of community nurseries over 9200 ha., subsidised sale of diesel pumps and fertilisers to small and marginal farmers, provision of irrigation to 2.8 million acres through major, medium and minor irrigation projects, and installation of new tubewells are among the specific relief and rehabilitation measures taken to help the farmers.

(ii) Water rate for lift irrigation projects in kharif area was subsidised to the extent of 50 per cent.

(iii) Diesel pumps are hired out during kharif|rabi at concessional rates.

(iv) Special feeding programme, to cover children and expectant and nursing mothers, has been expanded.

(v) Public distribution system has been strengthened by opening more number of fair price shops/consumers stores by the consumer cooperatives.

(vi) Provision of labour intensive works on large scale.

(vii) Drinking water arrangements have been augmented.

At the request of the Govt. of Orissa, a Central Team visited the State between the 11th and 15th January and on the basis of its report and the recommendation of the High Level Committee on Relief, ceiling of expenditure to combat drought situation is being sanctioned shortly. Pending that an ad-hoc advance of Rs. 5 crores has been sanctioned to the Govt. of Orissa.

To assist the Govt. of Orissa in meeting the situation arising from natural calamities like cyclone and floods, the Govt. of India had already sanctioned a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 19,377.97 lakhs during 1982-83.