

AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M. S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has been fixing the all-India minimum prices of sugarcane payable by sugar factories from the 1950-51 season onwards. Prior to that, these prices were fixed by the State Governments.

The fixation of prices by the Central Government was initially done under the Essential Supplies (Temporary powers) Act, 1946. The Act was repealed in 1955. Thereafter, these prices began to be fixed under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1955, issued in exercise of powers derived from the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The 1955 Order was, later, replaced by a comprehensive Order of 1966, which has been amended from time to time to make it more comprehensive.

(c) It would not be desirable to restore the power of fixation of minimum prices of sugarcane to the State Governments for the following reasons :

- (i) Sugar is an essential commodity of everybody consumption by the common man and it is, therefore, essential that it should be available at a reasonable price to the consumer. Under the present system, levy sugar (65% of the sugar produced) is distributed at a uniform retail price throughout India. The uniform price scheme is controlled and operated centrally by the Union Government.
- (ii) To achieve the above mentioned objective, it is essential to fix the price of cane also centrally and by a uniform method.
- (iii) The method adopted by the various State Governments for fixation of sugarcane prices were not uniform and mostly lacked explicit rationale. Any reversion to the old practice of cane prices being fixed by the States, would disturb the level of uniformity achieved and might bring in imbalances in the sugarcane economy to the ultimate detriment of the interests of the cane farmers and the producers and consumers of sugar.

- (iv) A proper and well coordinated development of the sugar industry, which is necessary in the national interest, may not be Possible.

दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण की सलाहकार समिति द्वारा की गई बैठकें

9291: श्री राम विलास पासवान : क्या निर्माण और आवास मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण की सलाहकार समिति द्वारा पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान कितनी बैठक की गई और उनमें किन-किन मदों पर विचार विमर्श किया गया;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस सलाहकार समिति के लिए निर्वाचित संसद सदस्यों के प्रति अपेक्षापूर्ण रवैया अपनाया जाता है;

(ग) दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण की सलाहकार समिति का औचित्य है; और

(घ) क्या दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार से सम्बन्धित किसी मामले को इस समिति की बैठक की कार्यसूची में कभी सम्मिलित किया गया है अथवा उस पर समिति की किसी बैठक में कभी चर्चा की गई है और यदि हां, तो कब ?

खेल विभाग में, निर्माण और आवास मंत्रालय में तथा संसदीय कार्य विभाग में उपमन्त्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) (क) सलाहकार परिषद की 5.4.1982 तथा 24.8.1982 की दो बैठकें हुई थी। दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सलाह दी जा रही है कि तिथियों की एक तालिका बनाई जाय जिससे कि सलाहकार परिषद की बैठकों का नियमित रूप से आयोजन किया जा सके।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) दिल्ली विकास अधिनियम, 1957 की धारा 5 (1) के अन्तर्गत दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण वृहत योजना बनाने और विकास की

आयोजना या इस अधिनियम, के प्रशासन से उत्पन्न होने वाली या इसके सम्बन्ध में उत्पन्न होने वाले मामलों, जो प्राधिकरण द्वारा इसे सौंपे जाय, में प्राधिकरण को सलाह देने के प्रयोजन से सलाहकार परिषद का गठन करता है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

IARI Scientists receiving awards from Private Bodies

9292. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain scientists at IARI have received awards like Borlaug award, Sanjay Memorial award and other awards from private trusts or private bodies ;

(b) if so, whether it is permissible under Government rules and whether these scientists have sought official permission to receive such awards ; and

(c) if not, what action is being proposed against them ?

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

(b) and (c) These awards are given by recognised institutions for outstanding work done by the scientists in their respective fields in accordance with their rules and regulations. There is nothing specific in the rules which prohibits acceptance of such awards and as such the scientist concerned does not need to seek permission to accept such an award.

Loss to FCI on import of Fertilizers

9293. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to news item 'Fertilizers Rebate Scheme' appearing in Economic Times, New Delhi, dated 11 February, 1984 and state :

(a) whether Food Corporation of India suffered a loss of Rs. 30 crores for importing fertilizers, which remained in godowns for two years, for want of marketing arrangements and as such Food Corporation had to give rebate of 10 per cent in addition to the earlier rebate of 7½ percent ;

(b) if so, the additional loss in this deal towards interest on the amount involved, storing charges and staff charges ; and

(c) what action has been taken to fix responsibility for the loss so suffered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) Till 1978-79 Food Corporation of India was the only agency for the distribution of imported fertilizers on behalf of the Government of India for meeting the requirements of the farmers and for maintaining buffer and pipeline stocks of fertilizers. After 1978-79 a number of other Pool Handling Agencies were inducted to handle imported fertilizers. These agencies were either fertiliser manufacturers or other companies which had a well-knit distribution network for marketing fertilizers. Consequently, Food Corporation of India, who used to market fertilizers with the help of State institutions started finding it difficult to sell fertilizers and huge stocks accumulated with them. There were dangers of the old stocks losing nutritive value if they were allowed to be stored for long. Besides Government of India was losing huge sums by way of inventory carrying and storage charges on these fertilizers. It was, therefore, decided that such standard stocks of Food Corporation of India which were more than two years old would be sold through fertilizers manufacturers and other agencies having well-knit marketing network at a rebate of 10% for the farmers. This rebate was in addition to the 7½% reduction in prices announced by the Government of India on 29th June, 1983. Rebate was allowed on this stock to ensure a quick turnover of the fertiliser with the distributing agencies and also to give financial relief to the farmers on such fertiliser. Since Food Corporation of India distributes imported fertilizers on behalf of the Government of India, the question of Food Corporation of India suffering losses for the imported fertilizers does not arise. A six-monthly review showed that by launching this Scheme, the Government of India have saved an amount of Rs. 150/- crores over a period of five years in inventory carrying and storage charges due to faster turnover of these fertilizers. Out of this Rs. 30 crores have been passed on the farmers by way of 10% price reduction in Urea and Di-ammonium Phosphate. Thus both the Government