

(b) and (c). Do not arise at this stage

Sale of Sugar in Free Market

1719. SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total percentage of sugar production in the country which is allowed to be sold in the free market and whether Government are taking initiative to bring this quantity also under the category of sale with Government's permission ;

(b) whether the sugar industry has sharply reacted to this proposal ; and

(c) whether attention of Government has been invited in this regard to a report in the Economic Times of the 15th January, 1972, and if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is no statutory control on price or distribution of sugar. However, the sugar industry, both in the joint stock and cooperative sectors, has agreed on an informal basis to make available sixty per cent of sugar released every month, at a fixed price to meet emergent requirements and for distribution to domestic consumers through fair price shops. They have also agreed to earmark 3.5 per cent of the quota at the same price for export. The quantity available to them for sale in the open market is 36.5 per cent of the monthly released quota. Early in January, 1972, when the prices of free sale quota of sugar rose steeply, the Government suggested to the industry that the ex-factory prices of free sale sugar should not go beyond a reasonable limit. The industry replied that on account of the differences in the cost of production of sugar in different parts of the country, it had not been possible for them to arrive at an agreed decision among themselves in regard to a uniform ceiling price for free sale sugar applicable all over India.

(c) The Government have seen the report in "The Economic Times" of 15th January, 1972. Subsequent to this, the prices of free sale sugar showed a downward trend. However, the prices have again recorded a steep

rise since the beginning of March 1972. The matter is again under consideration.

Coaching-Cum-Guidance Centres for S. C. and S. T. Candidates

1720. SHRI V. MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey of coaching-cum-guidance centres for assisting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates has been completed as anticipated by the end of 1971-72 ; and

(b) if so, the results of the survey and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who were given guidance and coaching ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMI) : (a) and (b) No Survey in regard to Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres has been made

A Survey was, however, conducted through the Directorate General of Employment and Training of the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation to investigate the policy of reserving vacancies for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes applicants to the vacancies in the Central Ministries and their Departments with the objective to find out *inter alia* the reasons for vacancies remaining unfilled and evolving measures for filling up all the reserved posts.

The Survey work has since been completed and the report is still under finalisation.

Office Accommodation for Unrecognised Labour Unions in Paradip Port Trust Area

1721. SHRI DEVENDRA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of clear orders of Government of India that unrecognised Labour Unions will be given office accommodation in the Port Trust Area, the Chairman, Paradip Port Trust has recommended to the Paradip Port Trust Board to give office accommodation to some of the unrecognised Labour Unions in Paradip Port area ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to stop the Paradip Port Trust from making such inappropriate recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b). Government have not issued any specific order that unrecognised Labour Unions should not be allotted office accommodation in the Port Trust Area. Accommodation has already been provided to Paradip Port Workers Union the only recognised Union functioning in Paradip Port. However, in view of the non-availability of suitable hired accommodation at Paradip, the Port administration are reviewing the position regarding the allotment of accommodation to labour unions, and in accordance with the Board's decision, the matter has now been referred to Government for advice, which is under consideration.

Post-Graduate Course in Medical College, Calicut

1722. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested permission to start Post-Graduate Courses in some subjects in the Medical College, Calicut ;

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

(c) whether Government will consider giving sanction for starting these courses this year onwards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Medical Council of India has accorded necessary permission to the Calicut University to start the following post-graduate courses at Medical College, Calicut :—

1. M. Sc (Biochemistry)
2. Diploma in Dermatology and Venereology

3. Diploma in Child Health.

4. Diploma in Ophthalmology.

5. M. D. (Forensic Medicine)

6. M. S. (Anatomy)

7. M. D. (Pharmacology)

The Government of India, who were approached by the State Government for their approval to the starting of the post-graduate courses at the Medical College, Calicut, have informed the State Government that there is no objection to the starting of the post-graduate courses at the Medical College, Calicut, as already approved by the Medical Council of India, provided no expenditure is claimed from the Central Government.

Estimates of All India Coordinated Fruit Improvement Project from Kerala

1723. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government have sent detailed estimates of All India Coordinated Fruits Improvement Project for administrative approval ;

(b) if so, whether the approval has been given ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, approval of the detailed estimates received from Government of Kerala has been communicated.

(c) Does not arise.

Crisis in Kerala's Economy due to Fall in Prices of Agricultural Products

1724. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis in Kerala's economy as a result of the steep fall in prices of agricultural products