

has also been suggested to them to consider adding a distillery unit, after expert study about its techno-economic feasibility, with financial assistance from the National Co-operative Development Corporation. These suggestions are under consideration of the State Government.

**Complaints about the Quality of Seeds supplied by National Seeds Corporation**

641. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of complaints about the deterioration in quality of seeds supplied by the Seeds Corporation has increased during the last three years,

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the same period year-wise;

(c) number of complaints from Government agencies and the variety of seeds with regard to which the complaints were mainly received; and

(d) whether each complaint has been inquired into and if so, in how many cases the deterioration was due to malpractice. What punishment has been given to the persons responsible and what steps have been taken to improve the quality of seed where malpractice is not involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Steps taken to check rise in Price of Sugar**

642 SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA :  
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of sugar in open market has recorded sharp increase during the last two months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the different States;

(c) whether Government have analysed the causes for the rise in prices and if so, the main features thereof;

(d) whether steps were taken to bring down the prices during the last two months and if so, the results thereof; and

(e) whether price rise is due to non-lifting of sugar from mills and its distribution through fair price shops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). A statement showing wholesale prices of sugar in the open market at important consuming centres in various States during the last three months as on 7th January, 1972, 4th February, 1972 and 3rd March, 1972 is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1468/72*]

(c) The main reasons for the rise in the prices are :-

(i) expectation of a substantial fall in the production of sugar, as a result of a fall in the area under sugar-cane, and the damage to the standing crop by excessive rains and floods in the north and drought in some areas in south;

(ii) sympathetic effect of rise in the prices of gur and khandsari;

(iii) increase in the cost of production of sugar as a result of payment of higher price for sugar-cane by factories and other factors;