

out of failure of sardine and mackerel fisheries during 1972-73. The loan was required to be repaid in 25 monthly instalments, the recovery commencing from November 1973 and no recovery to be made during the monsoon months of June, July, August and September. In all a sum of Rs. 23.75 lakhs was actually disbursed and the distribution was arranged through the Fisheries Cooperative Societies.

(c) According to the State Government of Karnataka, the loans advanced by them for the purchase of mechanised beats are recoverable in 45 monthly instalments, there being no recovery during the monsoon months of June, July August and September. Interest is charged at 5½ to 6 per cent as fixed by the State Government from time to time. However, as the failure of mackerel and sardine fisheries during 1972-73 affected the fishermen operating shore seines, and not the fishermen operating mechanised fishing beats engaged mainly on shrimp trawling, the Government of Karnataka have not changed the policy in regard to recovery of loans from mechanised fishing beats during the year 1972-73. In 1970-71, when there was a failure of prawn fishery that Government ordered postponed of recovery of instalments of loan due during that year from mechanised beat owners

Cost of production of sugar and reasons for its rise in price

1697. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA:

SHRI RAMKANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the real cost of production of sugar per quintal; and

(b) the reasons why the price of sugar in the market is going much beyond the buying capacity of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) A statement showing the ex-factory prices of sugar as notified by the Government in December, 1973 on the basis of the Tariff Commission's Cost Schedules for sugar produced in 1973-74 season is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6304/74]. These prices, which include an amount of Rs. 12.60 per quintal in all the zones as return on Capital, are applicable to 70 per cent of the production collected as levy by the Government. Further, these prices are based on the minimum cane prices notified for different Factories by the Government, but under the policy of partial control most of the factories pay much higher prices than the notified prices for the cane. Consequently the actual cost of production of sugar will be much higher. Roughly, it will increase by Rs. 10 per quintal of sugar for every Re. 1 increase in the price paid for sugarcane. The factories are generally able to recover the extra cost on production of sugar from their higher realisations on disposal of free sale sugar.

(b) A reasonable portion of the requirements of the domestic consumers met by the distribution of levy sugar through fair price shops at a fixed price of Rs. 2.15 per kilogram since the 1st December, 1972. Only such of those as require more sugar have to go in for the free sale sugar, the price of which is governed by the normal law of demand and supply apart from its bearing a higher excise duty.

Procurement by F.C.I. during Kharif crop

1698. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) inspite of sufficient production of Kharif crop in the year 1973-74 the reason why procurement by F.C.I. is lagging behind; and

(b) what are the specific reasons?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):**

(a) and (b). Although the procurement by the F.C.I. and other procuring agencies during the Kharif Marketing Season 1973-74, so far, has been generally better than in the corresponding period of last year in some of the States the progress of procurement has been slow. Some of the main reasons for the same are as follows:—

- (1) Damage to the crop on account of late rains, adverse weather conditions at the time of harvesting, infestation etc. in some States.
- (2) Higher prices of foodgrains in the open market compared to the procurement prices.
- (3) General price rise in the case of other commodities has also adversely affected the pace of procurement.
- (4) A tendency on the part of producers and others to hold back the grain in the expectation of better prices later in the year.
- (5) A tendency on the part of producers to hold back the produce in order to replenish their stocks for consumption, which have been severely depleted due to the drought conditions prevailing in 1971-72 and 1972-73.
- (6) A general climate and psychology of scarcity.
- (7) Lack of consensus amongst the various political parties about the procurement effort.

Requirement of engineers

1699. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new engineers required for the period of 1974—79, and

(b) the provisions made for the requirement of these engineers?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(PROF. S. NURUL HASAN):** (a). A Working Group appointed by the Planning Commission has estimated that about 2,12,800 engineering graduates and diploma holders would be required during the 5th plan at the envisaged rate of 5.5 per cent growth in the national income. If the rate of growth is slower, the number of engineers required would be less.

(b) The full utilisation of the existing admission capacities in engineering colleges and polytechnics would ensure the availability of about 2,21,100 engineering graduates and diploma holders

Foodgrains for Maharashtra and lifting ban on inter-State movement of coarse grains

1700. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra met the Union Minister for Agriculture on January 21, 1974 to secure maximum Central assistance for food and pleaded for lifting the ban on the inter-State movement of coarse grains; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome of this meeting?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):**
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allotment of foodgrains for the month of February, 1974, for Maharashtra as increased to 1,50,000 tonnes from 1,30,000 tonnes given for January, 1974.

To improve the availability of foodgrains restrictions on the inter-State movement of coarse-grains have been