

Governments of Madras, Nagaland, and Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been received and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

(b) The State Governments undertake relief operations as soon as natural calamities necessitate these and when the expenditure on such relief exceeds or is expected to exceed limits prescribed by the Fourth Finance Commission, Central financial assistance is granted according to a prescribed pattern, on the recommendations of Central Study Teams. Any other assistance that the Central Government can provide is also considered in the light of the observations of the teams. At the request of the State Governments concerned, the Central Teams will be visiting Andhra Pradesh and Mysore shortly.

#### SUGAR PRODUCTION

542. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:  
DR. RANEN SEN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar likely to be produced in the country during the current season and during the next season;

(b) the additional profits that will be earned by the sugar industry as a result of the partial decontrol of sugar; and

(c) whether Government have devised any scheme to fix the prices of controlled and decontrolled sugar and to prevent the exploitation of the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) About 21.5 lakhs tonnes of sugar is likely to be produced during the current season but the actual production will depend

upon the quantity of sugarcane which becomes available to the sugar factories. It is not possible to give at present any indication about the production in the next season.

Due to the high prices paid for sugarcane in the current season it is expected that the plantings of cane will increase and weather being favourable, its general availability will be better, next year.

(b) The additional profits of the sugar industry will depend on the prices paid by the factories for sugarcane and the price at which they are able to sell their entire free sale quota which will be known only at the end of this year.

(c) The price of levy sugar has already been fixed on the basis of the minimum sugarcane prices fixed by Government although the sugar mills are paying much higher prices for sugarcane. The question of fixation of price of sugar released for free sale does not arise. The factories charge a higher price for free sugar because they have to pay prices for sugarcane higher than the minimum price fixed by the Government.

#### FOOD PRODUCTION IN 1968-69

543. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:  
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates for the production of foodgrains for the year 1968-69 have been worked out;

(b) if so, the figures worked out; and

(c) the basis on which these estimates have been worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION