

*[Translation]***Shortage of Levy Sugar**

2098. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
 SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government may run out of sugar for distribution through the Public Distribution System by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, whether according to the Ministry there is a shortfall of 10 lakh tonnes in the levy sugar and no sugar would be available for channelising into the Public Distribution System in the last quarter of this year ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the policy to bring back the incentive scheme to open sugar units set up after 1994 has resulted in lower to the levy sugar stock for 1997-98 ;

(e) whether the Government propose to explore option of getting the sugar on loan from the cooperative and private sugar manufacturers for channelising into the levy system ; and

(f) the other steps being considered to bridge the gap between demand and supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The sugar production during the current crushing season 1996-97 is estimated at about 130 lakh tonnes. After meeting the requirement of levy sugar upto 30th September, 1997, the availability of levy sugar would be about 4.92 lakh tonnes. So far no estimates of sugarcane production for the season 1997-98 are available, and as such, the exact position about production of sugar and its availability for levy cannot be estimated at this stage. The position will be reviewed after receipt of estimates of sugarcane and sugar production from the State Governments.

(d) The Government have formulated a new incentive scheme for the letters of intent issued after 31.3.1994 for establishment of new sugar factories and expansion in the existing units. It generally takes 3-4 years to set up a new sugar factory and as such there would not be any major impact on the availability of levy sugar on account of new Incentive Scheme.

(e) and (f) The position about availability of levy sugar will be reviewed when firm estimates of sugar production during 1997-98 season are available.

*[English]***Voluntary Organisations in Assam**

2099. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of voluntary organisations working for women welfare in Assam and the amount sanctioned to them during each of the last three years ;

(b) whether a few schemes are lying pending with the Union Government for allocation of funds ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Grants in aid are sanctioned by this Ministry for implementation of Schemes for the Welfare of SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities, handicapped, aged, street children and other socially and economically disadvantaged beneficiaries thereof include men, women and children.

Assessment of North-Eastern Council

2100. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
 SHRI JAGMOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of the work done by the North Eastern Council since its inception in 1972 ;

(b) whether the seven State Government of the North Eastern region have expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the said Council ;

(c) whether the Council has failed to secure speedy development of infrastructure in the region ; and

(d) the remedial measures in hand, or being contemplated to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The work done by the North Eastern Council is reviewed by the Government on an annual basis.

(b) to (d) The states of the North Eastern region have been demanding restructuring of North Eastern Council for further speedy development of infrastructure in the Region. It has therefore, been decided to restructure the North Eastern Council with the inclusion of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of 7 North Eastern States as Members. The North Eastern Council would shed its role of reviewing security related matters so that the Council can concentrate on economic development.