

(b) The production of sugar by the mills in the State of Maharashtra during the last 3 seasons was as under:—

Sugar season	Production (Lakh tonnes)
1993-94	27.46
1994-95	50.25
1995-96 (Prov.)	53.76

(c) to (e) The export of sugar has been decanalised with effect from 15.1.1997. Under the new system, export of sugar is being carried out through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce. Government has placed a quantity of 2.5 lakh tonnes of free sale sugar at the disposal of APEDA out of 1996-97 season's production for exports. In addition, a quantity of 36,300 MTs. of freesale sugar/raw sugar has also been placed at the disposal of APEDA for Preferential Quota Exports to EEC and USA through Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. As per the information received from APEDA, the commercial exports are being made to Pakistan, Maldives, Myanmar and Dubai.

#### Floods in Gujarat

957. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM :  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was devastating flood in Gujarat resulting in heavy loss of life and property in the State;

(b) if so, the number of lives lost and the extent of damage caused to standing crops/property;

(c) whether the Government have sent any official team to assess the losses suffered;

(d) the assistance sought by the Government of Gujarat from the Union Government and the financial assistance given by the Union Government to Gujarat to render immediate help to the affected people and rehabilitate them to safer places; and

(e) the measures taken to prevent such damages by flood in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) According to the reports received from the Government of Gujarat, heavy rains and floods during the current South-West monsoon has affected 2125 villages in 17 districts claiming 191 human lives and damaging crops in an area of 1.98 lakh ha. and 1.02 lakh houses/huts.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 55.24 crores comprising 2nd and 3rd quarterly instalment of Calamity Relief Fund was released to the State Government for relief and rehabilitation measures in flood affected areas. With the first instalment of Rs. 27.62 crores released earlier, an amount of Rs. 82.86 crores has been made available to the State Government from the Calamity Relief Fund during 1997-98. A Memorandum has been received from the State Government indicating losses of Rs. 664.33 crores in various sectors and seeking liberal assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). A Central team has visited the affected areas in Gujarat recently to assess the situation. The National Calamity Relief Committee will decide on the quantum of assistance from the NFCR based on the report of the team.

(e) The flood control measures being implemented include construction of reservoirs and embankments, channel improvements, town protection and river training works.

[Translation]

#### Allocation of Foodgrains to Uttar Pradesh

958. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :  
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :  
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

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

(a) whether 89 development blocks were included under the PDS in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh facilitating each family to get 30-40 kilograms at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the reasons for providing 10 kilograms foodgrains to each family at present;

(c) whether the people of the State particularly Uttarakhand region are facing great difficulty as a result of drastic reduction of foodgrains quota under the Public Distribution System;