

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that he does not know whether the price of wheat in the world market has increased or not. I would like to know whether the price of wheat has increased in the world market and if not, then why was the price of wheat meant for export from India increased? Does the Government agree that as a result of increasing the export price, the export of wheat will decline resulting in loss to the farmers? Will Government think in terms of exporting the wheat of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh like that of Haryana and Punjab?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The original question pertained to Punjab and Haryana only. But the hon. Member has asked whether the wheat of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh can also be considered for export. As per on stock position, we have, as on 1.7.1996, a stock of 143.4 lakh tonnes, out of which our consumption would be 131 lakh tonnes. We first assess the requirement of our country and then think of export. We can go in for export by after meeting the requirements in our country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, the price of wheat has gone up in the world market. Then why have the Government increased the export price of wheat? This question of mine has not been replied.

[English]

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government has any intention of increasing the quantity of wheat supplied through the Public Distribution System in the country. I would also like to know that in certain parts of the country like Southern Karnataka where wheat is not used, there are other millets like Ragi which are in common consumption whether the Government is thinking in terms of providing this popularly used millets through the Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, 1,60,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains used to be supplied every month to various states in open sale. Now we have increased this allocation to 3,50,000 tonnes per month. F.C.I. sells in all States. It will also distribute whatever allocations we have made in P.D.S. As for increasing the allocation of wheat, we make allocations to the States. If they want any increase in the allocations to them, they may send proposals.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, In the tribal areas of Rajasthan, wheat and rice are not made available. The Government of India made allocations for those areas but the allocation was not lifted in full. What is the reason therefor? The Government of India did not permit them to lift the foodgrains. When I ask them, they say that foodgrains do not reach them due to non-availability of wagons. We lift and bring the foodgrains.

Sir, it is a serious question. Foodgrains are not available in those areas. If foodgrains are not made available in those areas at the fair price shops, the people there are put to a lot of trouble. 50 per cent of the foodgrains are distributed there in the first month and the remaining 50 per cent in the second month. The distribution there is not done in a proper way. From the very beginning, they supply less to the people. Whether they get their ration in the first month or in the second month, they are always supplied less. I would like to know whether Governments would arrange to have adequate quantities of foodgrains lifted in Rajasthan.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, as for lifting of foodgrains, the state Governments lift foodgrains as per their capacity and resources. Offtake is the responsibility of the state Governments. The Centre Government makes allocations to the State Governments. For offtake, State Government are responsible. If they increase there offtake, we will consider to increase there allocation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I understand that. What can I do?

(Interruptions)

Levy Price of Sugar

*304. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the recovery and duration adopted in determination of levy price of sugar during 1995-96, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of purchase tax and the Cane Development Council Commission adopted during the aforesaid period, zone-wise;

(c) the cane cost and conservation cost in levy prices of sugarcane, zone-wise;

(d) the escalation cost provided in each month during the said sugar season, zone-wise; and

(e) the ex-factory levy sugar price during 1995-96 alongwith the retail price of sugar price of sugar for Public Distribution System during 1995-96, zone-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The details are provided in Statement-I.

(e) The retail issue price of sugar distributed through

the Public Distribution System is uniform throughout the country. With effect from 1.2.94 it is Rs.9.05 per Kg. The

Ex-factory levy sugar price during 1995-96 is given in statement-II.

ANNEXURE - I

Statement showing zone-wise recovery, duration, purchase tax, commission, cane cost, conversion cost and escalation for the sugar season 1995-96

Zones	Recovery (%)	Duration (Days)	Purchase Tax, cost etc. (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar-cane)	Commission etc. (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar-cane)	Cane cost (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar)	Conv. cost (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar)	Escalation (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar)
Punjab	9.28	109	0.500	0.120	507.85	247.34	41.56
Haryana	9.56	136	1.500	0.360	512.84	234.27	40.16
Rajasthan	9.12	90	0.000	0.000	507.95	320.75	42.40
West U.P.	9.64	150	2.000	1.486	552.62	232.39	39.32
Central U.P.	9.49	135	2.000	1.476	557.74	211.64	37.36
East U.P.	9.27	133	2.000	1.454	531.26	258.31	44.64
North Bihar	9.24	108	2.540	0.150	547.69	271.27	47.44
South Bihar	8.50	90	2.370	0.150	529.65	374.36	56.40
South Gujarat	11.00	156	2.400	0.000	590.09	153.76	34.00
Saurashtra	8.99	90	2.400	0.000	554.95	268.45	43.24
Madhya Pradesh	9.59	90	1.706	0.000	529.07	329.72	48.28
Central Mah.	10.62	163	2.500	0.000	546.77	166.04	36.24
South Mah.	11.00	163	2.500	0.000	600.36	139.03	34.00
North Mah.	10.20	130	2.500	0.000	552.39	207.55	39.04
N.W. Karnataka	11	162	6.500	1.000	616.27	123.09	35.40
Rest of Karnataka	9.23	160	5.000	1.000	587.65	188.12	39.60
Andhra Pradesh	9.76	123	9.000	0.000	609.12	214.44	39.88
Tamil Nadu	8.93	180	7.560	0.500	634.04	195.33	33.72
Assam-WB-Orissa-Nagaland	8.50	90	0.000	0.000	522.17	385.06	58.36
Kerala-Goa-Co. Kar.	8.82	90	2.520	0.000	539.34	267.88	50.24

ANNEXURE-II

Statement showing Zone-wise levy Sugar Prices for the Year 1995-96

S.No.	Zone	Levy Sugar prices for all ISS grade of sugar into buyer's cart. lorries etc. at the factory gate/godown (Excluding Ed) upto 5 Km from the factory	Levy Sugar price for all ISS grade of sugar into railway wagons (Excluding Ed) upto 5 km from the factory
1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar (North)@	940.69	942.26
4.	Bihar (South)	1034.70	1036.27
5.	Gujarat (South)	852.14	843.71
6.	Gujarat (Saurashtra)	940.93	942.50
7.	Haryana	861.56	863.13
8.	North-West Karnataka	851.05	852.62
9.	Rest of Karnataka	889.66	691.23
10.	Kerala, Goa And coastal Karnataka	931.75	933.32
11.	Madhya Pradesh	981.36	982.93
12.	Maharashtra (South)	847.68	849.25
13.	Maharashtra (North)	873.27	874.84
14.	Maharashtra (Central)	824.24	825.61
15.	Punjab	871.04	872.61
16.	Rajasthan	945.39	946.96

1	2	3	4
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	937.38	838.95
18.	Utter Pradesh (Central)	881.03	882.60
19.	Utter Pradesh (East)	938.60	940.07
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	896.62	900.19

@ The prices for North and South Bihar zone are subject to final orders of the Court in Respect of Purchase Tax etc. To ease any amount is to be realised from the factories in the aforesaid zone of Bihar, it would have to be refunded by the concerned factories to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund.

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugar crisis keeps coming up every two or three years. My question is specifically to the Minister to elicit some information and draw the attention of the House to the issue of sugar price and the sugar policy of the Government. This sugar issue is coming up every two or three years as a controversial issue. The House will remember that only three years ago, this issue had rocked this House and there were investigations and all that. If you look back three or four years against, one more controversial issue had come up.

When I look at the sugar policy, the Government has all the keys in its hand. The Government will decide whether a new mill has to be licensed; the Government will decide whether they will sell it in free market or levy; the Government will decide as to what percentage of sugar will be sold as levy sugar and how much in the free market; the Government will decide what will be the amount of sugar to be released in the free market and the Government will decide what will be the cane price...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Every decision is in its hand. Will the Government admit that it has failed in monitoring the sugar policy in the last sugar crisis that we had? Unfortunately, rather ironically, three years ago we were thinking of importing sugar and today we are thinking of exporting sugar. Will the hon. Minister admit that the Government has not been successful in controlling the sugar policy and the sugar situation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a question where you will get a positive answer. Why are you asking a question where you will get a negative answer?

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : What is the thinking of the Government about the future sugar policy? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has not asked for any specific

question. He is only discussing the sugar policy of his time. Sugar policy is under constant watch. 40 percent sugar is under levy and the remaining 60 percent is selling in the open market. The Central Government of course fixes the minimum statutory price of sugar. But the State Governments are free to fix the price of sugarcane, as it suits them. The prices of sugarcane vary from State to State I would like to inform the hon. Member that a watch is being kept on the sugar policy. We are also contemplating to draw up a uniform policy.

[English]

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Is the Government really very keen on the sugar policy and not taking sides with the farmers or the mill owners? Only recently the Government has given some relief to the mill owners thinking that the advantages would be carried over to the farmers. My specific supplementary question is this. The mill owners have been demanding certain things but the Government is giving other things. If there is surplus production today, why do you not think of having a buffer stock? Why do you not think of allowing exports? Why do you try to twist the ears of the bank to give them long term credit? Whereas, by breaking the law of the bank, you are trying to give relief in case of U.P. as the election is in the offing. You are more concerned about the U.P. election votes than the sugar policy. Are you thinking of creating a bigger buffer zone? Are you thinking of allowing exports?

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have asked your question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are exporting 10 lakh tonnes of Sugar, as per the permission granted to us. As far the Sugar policy have we are contemplating to switch over from the canalisation system to decanalisation system. As far as the question of buffer stock is concerned, we keep a watch on it from time to time. We are trying to the arrears of the farmers cleared in three months in the entire country. These are the guidelines of the R.B.I. which have been issued for all the States of the country including the Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN : Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there are a number of sugar factories. The agriculturists entered into agreements with these sugar factories and raised the sugarcane crops on huge expanses of land. But even after thirteen months, the sugar factories are not giving orders for cutting the sugarcane due to non-release of sugar stock lying with the sugar factories.

I would like to know what action the Government proposes to take in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are not following any pick and choose policy. We are not allowing any particular sugar mill to sell sugar through discretionary quota. Last months we allowed all the Sugar mills in the country to sell sugar over and above their usual quota of 30 percent of free sale. We had granted this permission. At present we are not considering the demand of various mills for pick and choose.

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the farmers is going from bad to worse because they depend only on nature. If nature is kind to them, their condition improves. To ameliorate the lot of the farmers, we should give agriculture the status of an industry. We should fix the minimum price of sugar, as is done in the case of wheat and rice. Will agriculture be given the status of an industry?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : This question does not arise from the original question.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugar policy is under discussion. In Maharashtra, one sugar mill pays to a farmer at the rate of Rs.450 per metric tonne while the other pays at the rate of Rs.850 per metric tonne. Thus the price differs from place to place. Why is it so?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, I have already clarified that we have statutory minimum price. We have fixed the price of Sugar at the national level at Rs.9.05. They are the cooperative mills. In Maharashtra, there are 110 mills. Of them, 104 are cooperative mills... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : In Maharashtra, there are not 410 mills. The hon. Minister is giving wrong information.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the sugar policy of the Government is going to come and, I am sure, it will be a very sweet policy. We have a very sweet festival in Kerala called 'Onam'. You know, Sir, that Kerala is lacking in sugar. My very short question is whether the hon. Minister can give some additional sugar to Kerala at a very low price during the 'Onam' Festival which is going to come shortly.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are not providing additional sugar to any state separately. But we shall certainly provide additional sugar to Kerala, keeping in view the importance of the festival.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Poor functioning of AIR/Doordarshan

*305. SHRI P. NAMGYAL :

SHRI SUKH RAM :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding poor functioning and break-down of some of the AIR/Doordarshan centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and till date, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted so far and proposed to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The functioning of the AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras has been generally satisfactory. However, there have been some complaints about short breakdowns of service in respect of a few studios and certain transmitters. These relate to disruption/failure of power supply; failure of certain components in the equipment; failure of telephone/microwave links, limited transmission due to shortage of staff, etc.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Whenever any breakdown is noticed or a complaint is received about malfunctioning or non-functioning of any All India Radio Station/Doordarshan Kendra or transmitter, immediate remedial action is taken to rectify the defect. This is an ongoing process. Some of the remedial measures adopted include maintaining adequate inventory of spare parts, keeping constant liaison with state Electricity Boards, providing standby power supply equipment in a phased manner, setting up of maintenance centres to look after a group of LPTs/VLPTs etc. efforts are also being made to remove the shortage of staff.

Productivity Linked Wage Agreement

*306. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has recently signed productivity linked wage agreement with its aircraft engineers;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether the Air India proposes to sign such agreements with some more categories of employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?