

Decanalisation of Sugar Export

3635. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry and others have complained to the Government that the hasty decanalisation of sugar exports and inordinate delay in its implementation by the Government has created great unrest amongst the people;

(b) if so, whether it has also been conveyed that the sugar decanalisation is full of frauds,

(c) if so, the main allegations made against this decision; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Some representations have been received urging the Government not to repeal the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 without consulting the people concerned with sugar export.

(b) and (c) The following arguments have been conveyed against decanalisation, viz. :

(i) The repeal of the said Act is ill-conceived and ill-timed. The announcement of the decision has had an adverse impact on the international prices and no private trader or individual sugar mill will be able to export sugar.

(ii) The private parties have not been able to find a market.

(iii) That the idea of decanalisation will not be able to boost exports.

(d) The Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Ordinance, 1997 has been promulgated on 15.1.1997 thereby decanalising the export of sugar. This will allow sugar factories, companies, individuals and firms alike to export sugar along with the Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Corporation (ISGIEIC) leading to a healthy competition and resulting in a better overall export performance for the country.

Private parties have already participated in the tender enquiry floated by the Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on 17.2.1997.

Addition to STs List

3636. SHRI SUKHRAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has recommended for inclusion of Labana community of state in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh in their letter dated 24th May, 1994 has recommended inclusion of Labana community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Legislatures for Union Territories

3637. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been demands from the Union Territories without legislatures for providing legislatures there;

(b) if so, the names of the Union Territories from where such demands have been received;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether despite the assurances by the Government for providing Legislatures there nothing concrete has yet emerged out; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) At present, there are five Union territories without legislature viz. (i) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, (ii) Chandigarh, (iii) Daman & Diu, (iv) Dadra & Nagar Haveli and (v) Lakshadweep.

So far as the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is concerned, a Private Member's Bill entitled "The Government of Union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Bill 1996" providing for the Creation of a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers was introduced in the Lok Sabha. However, the same was withdrawn by the Member concerned after an assurance was extended that an All Party Meeting would be convened by the Government to take a final decision in the matter. The said All Party Meeting was subsequently held on the 12th March, 1997. The matter about the future set-up for the Union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is accordingly receiving the attention of the Government.

A Private Member's Bill entitled "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1997" to provide for a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers for Chandigarh has been introduced in the Lok Sabha recently. A demand has also been raised recently for the creation of a mini-Legislative Assembly on the lines of Pondicherry by joining the territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. No demand for a Legislature has been received from the Administration of Lakshadweep.

[Translation]

Procurement Prices of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

3638. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement prices of wheat, rice and sugar during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the reasons for increase each time;

(c) whether the procurement of wheat, rice and sugar was satisfactory during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The Minimum Support prices fixed by the Government for wheat and paddy during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 marketing seasons are as under :—

	(Rs. per qtl.)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Wheat	350	360	380
Paddy			
Common	340	360	380
Fine	360	375	395
Superfine	380	395	415

Statement-I showing procurement prices of levy rice for the last three Kharif Marketing Seasons is attached.

Statement-II showing the ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the last three sugar seasons is annexed.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices of wheat and paddy fixed by the Government are remunerative in nature. The MSP have been raised on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account a number of factors such as cost of production, reasonable return to the farmers, etc.

Procurement prices of levy rice are increased after taking into account MSP of paddy, statutory taxes and levies, milling charges and other incidental charges, out-turn ratio of rice from paddy, etc. etc.

As regards sugar, the increase in Statutory Minimum Price for Sugarcane and conversion costs results in rise in ex-factory levy sugar prices.

(c) to (e) The procurement of wheat and paddy under price support scheme is voluntary in nature for the farmers. Similarly, the collection of rice under levy scheme also depends on the purchase of paddy made by the millers. Hence, no targets as such are fixed for procurement of wheat and rice.

Quantities of wheat and rice procured for Central Pool since 1994-95 Marketing Season are as under :—

	(In Lakh Tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(As on 12.3.97)		
Wheat	118.69	123.27	81.82
Rice	134.03	99.49	95.86

The sugar production during the season 1994-95 was about 146.43 lakh tonnes and during 1995-96 it was about 164.29 lakh tonnes. 40% of the production, less incentives, is taken by the Government as levy sugar.

The above quantities procured were adequate for meeting the requirement of PDS/RPDS.