

12 00 hrs.

RE. STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

MR SPEAKER : After the Calling Attention Notice and the papers are laid the Prime Minister will make a statement on the border situation.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY SUGAR FACTORIES AND CANE GROWERS IN UP AND OTHER STATES

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported difficulties faced by sugar factories and cane growers in UP and other States owing to sugarcane price having been fixed by the government at a lower level than the recovery price."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : The Government of India fix only the minimum price of sugarcane payable by vacuum pan sugar factories. The actual price to be paid is settled between the sugarcane growers as sellers and sugar factories as buyers. The minimum sugarcane price is determined after taking into account the recommendations received from the Governments of the sugar producing States, Associations of Sugarcane growers and Sugar Industry, Agricultural Prices Commission, etc. In fixing this price various factors such as the cost of production of sugarcane, the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities, the availability of sugar to the consumer at a fair price and the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar, are also taken into account.

For sugarcane purchased by vacuum pan sugar factories during the 1971-1972 season, the Government after careful consideration of all aspects have decided to continue the basic minimum sugarcane price at Rs. 7.37 per quintal linked to a recovery of 9.4 percent or less with a premium of 6.6 paise per quintal for every increase of 0.1 percent in recovery above 9.4 percent. Government did not consider it necessary to

increase the minimum price of sugarcane as this would have pushed up the sugar prices further. Increase in the statutory minimum price would have also repercussions on the prices of other competing crops thereby aggravating the inflationary trends.

The minimum price fixed is expected to be only a national price as it has been made clear to the sugar industry that they are expected to pay a higher price for sugarcane than the minimum fixed by the Government, in view of the higher realisations they are getting at the present level of sugar prices. As per information received from the industry it is understood that they propose to pay sugarcane as under:—

Rs. per quintal

West U.P.	8.50
Central U.P.	8.00
East U.P.	8.00
Punjab	9.00
Haryana	up to 8.50
Maharashtra	11.50 ex field.
Mysore	9.50 to 11.50
Andhra Pradesh	9.00
Tamil Nadu	7.50 to 8.00

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : श्रीमान्, आप को याद होगा कि पिछले सत्र में भी केन प्राइस के एरियर्स, शुगर केन प्राइस और सरकार की आल इंडिया की क्या शुगर नीति हो, इसके सम्बन्ध में विद्युद्ध रूप से व्याख्या की गई थी और उस समय भी प्रोफेसर शेर सिंह माहब ने कहा था कि जिस समय केन प्राइस तय की जायगी, केन प्राइस को तय करने के लिए जो कुछ भी आज स्ट्रक्चर है, आज की महंगाई है, फटिलाइजर का दाम ज्यादा हो गया, तमाम चीजें जिन से शुगर का प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा होता है, उसका दाम ज्यादा हो गया, यह सब कंभिडर किया जायगा और उसके बाद किसानों को हर प्रकार से संतुष्ट किया जायगा क्योंकि करोड़ों लोग इस व्यवसाय में लगे हुए हैं और हम चाहते हैं कि उसी तरोके से शुगर पालिसी तय की जाय और केन प्राइस फिक्स की जाय। श्रीमान्, आज मुझे यह बतलाने के लिये