

progress on this account ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is the progress on which account ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The whole question of supply of water for the whole of Delhi is under the active consideration of the Government. The whole question of supply of water in Delhi depends upon the consent of the State Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh because water to Delhi is supplied from Haryana, parts of Rajasthan and parts of Uttar Pradesh. So, a standing committee has been set up with the chairman from the Central Water Commission and all the concerned engineers of all these States are in the committee. They will decide how best water can be supplied for the consumption of Delhi and its metropolitan city. Sometime back the meeting was held but no final decision has been taken. But it is under the active consideration of the Government. We are trying our best to augment the supply. There are proposals that some reservoirs should be added in the Ganga Jamuna basin. Then, at a particular place, Haryana Government is taking water for irrigation purposes. A proposal is being sent that they should divert that water to Delhi. These are some difficulties and we are quite aware of the whole situation. We are actively considering all these proposals. Therefore, the Hon. Members need not worry. They will get water.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the problem of drinking water is concerned, I would like to submit that the drinking water schemes started in 1972 in U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have not been completed so far due to paucity of funds with the result that drinking water is not available in scarcity-villages. I would, therefore, like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Government will consider providing extra resources for the drinking water schemes already started by Government in different States, but which are still lying incomplete even after 10 to 12 years, so that these schemes are completed ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The Hon.

Member is very well aware that so far as drinking water is concerned, both the Central Government and the State Governments are aware of the problem. In this connection, a countrywide survey has been made. Many a time questions about the identification of the problem villages have been asked and they have been answered in the House. In 1985, 75,000 villages will spill over to the Seventh Five Year Plan and this backlog (if you want I will give Statewise figures also) will be covered in the Seventh Five Year Plan by 1990. It is not a Central Scheme. Rather, every State should ensure that there remains no village without water. Not only this. Some years back, an incentive was given to the State Governments for solving the drinking water problem in the areas. If they take speedy steps we will provide incentives. Many States have taken advantage of it.

MR. SPEAKER : Ghafoor Saheb, other facilities may or may not be provided but at least one facility must be made available. In the villages where drinking water is not available, it should be made available on top priority. Without it, there is nothing of life. We visit many places, where there drinking water is not available and old women come to us and say that they do not want anything else but water. Therefore, whether you provide any other facility or not, you must see that water is provided.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever you have said is in my mind also. It is insulting that after so many years of independence even water is not available.

MR. SPEAKER : We will award you 'Param Vir Chakra' but you ensure that water is made available.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I will myself visit your constituency.

[English]

Import of Sugar from Brazil

*544. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugar imported from Brazil is being supplied to the consumer of Bangalore city since November 1984;

(b) whether the above sugar is harmful to the health of children;

(c) whether there is any necessity of importing sugar from Brazil when we ourselves are exporting sugar to other countries;

(d) at what rate we are exporting sugar and what rate we are importing sugar from Brazil; and

(e) whether Government propose to stop import of sugar from Brazil ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Against the contracts for import of sugar entered into in 1984, sugar has arrived from various countries including Brazil and from September, 1984 onwards it has been allotted to different State Governments including Karnataka Government for distribution as levy sugar to the consumers through fair price shops. The city/townwise distribution of levy sugar within the State falls under the purview of the State Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of limited availability of indigenous sugar, export of sugar has been drastically curtailed and imports have been resorted to so that there may be adequate availability of sugar at reasonable prices for internal consumption.

(d) the average F.O.B. price at which sugar was exported by the State Trading Corporation of India during the financial year 1984-85 has worked out to about Rs. 2,324 per tonne. The average CIF price of sugar imported from various countries including Brazil against the contracts entered into during 1984 was about Rs. 2,288 per tonne.

(e) In view of the facts stated in reply to (b) and (c) above, the question does not arise.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : What is the total shortfall in sugar production in the country and what is the quantity imported from Brazil ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The quantity imported from Brazil is about 2.68 lakh tonnes.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : This particular imported sugar was supplied to consumers in Bangalore city. There was a complaint from the consumer that it is harmful to health. May I know whether the Karnataka Government has sent any report to the Government of India in this regard ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I do not think there has been any complaint from the Karnataka Government in this regard. Because Brazil sugar is very powdery and it is very fine grain some consumers did not like it as compared to large grain sugar. But it is very nice sugar and its sucrose content is also very high. There is no question at all of this sugar being inferior to any other sugar produced in the country, nor it is harmful at all. It was not supplied only to Bangalore city. It was also supplied to many other places. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc. got a larger share of imported sugar for public distribution. Some States other than Karnataka also got a larger share of this sugar. There has been no complaint from anywhere.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PREMABAI CHAVAN : It is a matter of regret that our country imports sugar whereas it is said to be predominately a sugar-producing country. We can, of course, produce sugar to meet our total requirements, but there is difficulty regarding issuing of further licences for setting up of sugar mills. In 1960 also, a similar problem arose but new licences were not issued and this created shortage of sugar. Consequently the prices of sugar increased. In 1984, also the same situation arose. From Maharashtra, repeated requests for issuing of new licences for setting up more sugar mills are made but the Central Government do not pay attention towards them. Our technology is very famous, sugarcane is produced in a large quantity there and if more licences are given to the people, the sugar crisis can be removed. I am sure that the Hon. Minister will consider this matter and ensure that more and more licences are issued to Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER : Issue one or two licences to us also.

SHRIMATI PREMABAI CHAVAN : I want to know what your views are

on the requests made by us for issuing licences to set up more sugar mills in Maharashtra.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The fall in the production of sugar is not due to lesser number of sugar mills. In 1981-82, the sugar production capacity was less than the present capacity. Even then 84 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced in the country. In the year after that, 82 lakh tonnes of sugar were produced but after that 59 lakh tonnes were produced and this year, although many licences have been issued, the production is likely to be around 62 lakh tonnes. When sugarcane production is less or is produced in a lesser area or because of drought its availability is less or the sugar content is less, the production of sugar falls down.

So far as licences are concerned Maharashtra was given maximum licences in the past. Expansions of mills was also the maximum in Maharashtra. As compared to other States, Maharashtra got the maximum number of licences, almost equal to the number of licences issued to the rest of the country. Therefore, one should not complain that in Maharashtra the number of sugar mills is less. There are some districts, in each of which there are 10 to 12 mills. Our policy is that those districts where there are no mills should be given priority. This shortfall is there in other States also.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Just now the Hon. Minister has said that in 1981-82, the production was 84 lakh tonnes and in the year next to that 82 lakh tonnes but subsequently the production fell down and came to 59 lakh tonnes. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of why the production is coming down? He says that it is because of sugarcane but it is not correct. The fact is that subsequent to the year when production of sugar is more, the farmers do not get the fair price for sugarcane. Even now, hundreds of crores of rupees are due to be paid to the farmers as arrear. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister the acreage under sugarcane production in the years in which 84 lakh tonnes or 82 lakh tonnes of sugar were produced as also the acreage under sugarcane cultivation in the year when the production of sugar was 59 lakh tonnes as also how much

less sugarcane was produced. Funds are made available for import of sugar but the farmers are not paid a higher price. Had you paid that money to the farmers in the shape of higher prices, I think the production of sugar would have continued to be at a higher level.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I have already stated that the real cause is that sugarcane was grown in a lesser area because of drought. If the rainfall is adequate, water is available in adequate quantity and the means of irrigation are sufficient, then the yield of sugarcane will not be less. At the same time it is also true that the farmers are not paid as much as they demand every year.

So far as the arrears are concerned, during the last year a lot of arrears have been cleared and the percentage of this year is less as compared to that of the earlier years.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : How much is the percentage?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : You will have to ask a separate question for that. The present question relates to Karnataka. You want to have all information in answer to this question. I was telling you that the percentage of arrears in the matter of payment is the lowest in the current year and our efforts are to see that the arrears become the minimum but Hon. Members will agree that during the past five years, the prices of sugarcane have been the maximum. You can very well imagine the difference when I say between 1977 to 1980 when another Party was in power, the farmers could not get Rs. 3/- or Rs. 3.50 per quintal for sugarcane and they had to burn it in their fields but subsequently, i.e., after 1980, the prices of sugarcane have never been less than Rs. 20 or Rs. 21 per quintal. During the past one or two years even Rs. 25 or Rs. 26 per quintal have been given. Therefore, it cannot be said that the production has come down due to the lower prices of sugarcane. It is another thing that sometimes the cultivation of sugarcane might have been in a reduced area but to my mind the acreage has not reduced by more than 2 to 3 lakh hectares. Sometimes the production comes down because of diversion towards 'Gur' and 'Khandsari'. If

the mills make payment for sugarcane regularly and if the prices are also higher than those paid by the khandsari producers then the sugarcane will be supplied to the sugar mills. The price of the sugarcane used for 'Khandsari' and 'Gur' is much more and therefore, a greater quantity of sugarcane is diverted towards that side. We have no control over the production of 'Gur' and 'Khandsari' and we do not come to know how much is the production of these commodities. You can estimate the quantity of sugar produced but regarding the quantity of other sweetening agents produced, nothing can be said. If the production of sugar has come down to 60 or 62 lakhs tonnes, one cannot say that the production of 'Gur' and 'Khandsari' has not increased. If the mills pay higher prices for sugarcane, the production of sugar automatically increases. Secondly, there is some exemption from excise duty on 'Khandsari' while on 'Gur' there is no control at all. That is why the production of sugar has been less.

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : It is not a fact that there are some interested person in-between in this export and import business? The Minister has stated that we are producing enough sugar. Is it not a fact that Government wants to please some interested persons who are getting commission out of this, and if it is true, how much commission is a party getting per quintal when sugar is exported or imported?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I do not have any information about the Hon. Member's Party. But I know about my Party; they are not getting anything out of it. If he has any specific information, then he should write to me or to the Prime Minister and we shall look into it. But he cannot make general allegations like this.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Nirmala Kumari...Not present. Prof. P. J. Kurien...He is also not present. There is no more Question left; the list is over. Now let me run through the whole list again. Shri Shantaram Potdukhe...Not here. Shri Krishan Pratap Singh Not here. Prof. Saifuddin Soz Not present. Shri K. Ramamurthy Not here, Shri Ram Bahadur Singh Not here. Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao...Not present. Shri Viridhi Chander Jain...Not present.

Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal...Not present. Shri B. V. Desai...Not here. Prof. Nirmala Kumari Not here. Prof. P. J. Kurien...Not here. So, the Question List is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(English)

Facilities asked by All India Small Newspapers Conference

*527 **SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the facilities asked for by All India Small Newspapers Conference from Government;

(b) the steps being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether they have asked for financial assistance, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL):

(a) The Government have not received any representation from All India Small Newspapers Conference asking for facilities.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(Translation)

Meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee

*532 **SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee of his Ministry held in 1984;

(b) the resolutions passed in these meetings; and