

sugar factories is cornered by the cooperative sugar factories and a number of private sugar factories are left with inadequate supply of sugarcane and as a result of that, sugar production has fallen immensely. It is a fact and I am only asking to affirm or deny it. In view of that, have you not received a number of proposals from a number of traders that instead of importing the ordinary sugar, you may try to import raw sugar which can be actually processed in these factories, so that the employment potential of these factories will not fall and at the same time the processed sugar will be available at a cheaper price? I would like to know whether you will assure the House that you will examine this proposal and implement it. Even the Minister for Implementation may also reply. I do not mind.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : The only letter I have received is from Prof. Madhu Dandavate, to which I have replied two or three days ago, that on the private sector sugar factories about which he had written...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That was a private communication. I want public commitment.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : We have already given you a commitment that we are taking it up to the State Governments because the allocations do not depend on the Central Government. The Central Government only puts the extreme minimum price. There is diversion of sugarcane from the millers to other areas. We have taken it up with the State Governments to see that as you had written that the private sector millers are not getting sugarcane, so that there should not be any hardship in that regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it under consideration or under active consideration?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : It is under active consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Super active consideration.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I would like to know at what price the STC or the Food Corporation of India is giving imported sugar to the State Governments and if the price is Rs. 5.80 as has been said in the reply, then what is the profit which the Central Government or its agencies are making on the imported sugar?

I would also like to know whether it is desirable to manipulate the administered prices like this when they are dealing with the commodities like sugar?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : There is no question of any profit by the FCI as such, from this. As I said, the FCI had advised the State Governments at first below Rs. 6.00, because at that time the prevalent price was Rs. 5.40. And then to the State Governments when it was allotted at Rs. 5.20 per kilogram, after it was lowered then we advised that it should be less than Rs. 5.80. So it is for the State Governments to fix whatever price they want. Therefore, I have given the figures of these three States :

Tamil Nadu	Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 5.60
Gujarat	Rs. 5.65 to Rs. 5.80
Maharashtra	Rs. 5.80

At the moment it is Rs. 5.20 per kg.

Fertilizer Consumer Prices Committee

*107. **SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :**
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-power Fertilizer Consumer Prices Committee was set up in 1984 and if so, the name of its Chairman;

(b) the main task of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report and if so, the recommendations made and the action taken by Government to implement them; and

(d) how far these recommendations will be helpful to increase agricultural production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A high-powered Fertiliser Consumer Prices Committee was set up in 1984 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. S. Kahlon. Consequent upon his resignation from the Chairmanship of the Committee due to his taking up an assignment abroad, the Committee was reconstituted on 23-7-85 and Dr. G. V. K. Rao was appointed as its Chairman.

(b) A statement showing the term of reference of the two Committees, one headed by Dr. A. S. Kahlon and the second by Dr. G. V. K. Rao, is given below.

(c) No, Sir. The Committee has not submitted its report so far.

(d) In view of the answer at (c) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE HEADED BY DR. A. S. KAHLON

1. To ascertain socio-economic and agronomic factors which influence the crop production through use of fertilisers and to suggest various parameters which should govern the fertiliser pricing policy. These parameters should include cost benefit ratio both for irrigated and non-irrigated crops, level of consumption reached in particular region and the extent of irrigation.
2. To suggest a minimum cost benefit ratio which will induce the farmers to increase the use of fertiliser for achieving the targetted levels of agricultural production through increased use of fertiliser.

3. To suggest system for fixing nutrient prices of N, P₂ O₅ and K₂ O in complex fertilisers.

4. To suggest such policy measures which could result in increasing the efficiency of fertiliser use and thus improve the cost benefit ratio.

5. To suggest such a product pattern which would involve lower cost of production, movement, storage charges and result in selective use of nutrients based on soil and crop requirements.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE HEADED BY DR. G. V. K. RAO

1. To ascertain socio-economic and agronomic factors which influence the crop production through use of fertilisers and to suggest various parameters which should govern the fertiliser pricing policy. These parameters should include cost benefit ratio both for irrigated and non-irrigated crop level of consumption reached in particular region and extent of irrigation.
2. To suggest a minimum cost benefit ratio which will include the farmers to increase the use of fertiliser for achieving the targetted levels of agricultural production through increased use of fertiliser.
3. To suggest system fixing nutrient prices of N, P₂ O₅ and K₂ O in complex fertilisers.
4. To suggest such policy measures which could result in increasing the efficiency of fertiliser use and thus improve the cost benefit ratio.
5. To make recommendations for evolving a suitable product pattern keeping in view the appropriate use of nutrients

based on soil and crop requirements.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the committee has not submitted its report so far; but the Committee, in view of its terms of reference, is of great importance to the farmers and the country, because we have different types of soil in our country and production of our fertilizers is not planned according to the requirements of the soil, e.g., which fertilizer when used in a particular soil will yield a good crop or whether a smaller doze of fertilizer will yield a good crop. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether recommendations of the experts are taken into consideration in the matter of production of fertilizers in the country? If so, when and by whom these recommendations were made? If the production is not based on the recommendations, the reasons why our attention has not been drawn to such recommendations so far?

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The hon. Member is asking for product pattern. There are certain product patterns like *barabatis* etc. and these product patterns are always approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. Unless they are approved by the Ministry, they cannot manufacture, they cannot mix it. Before giving approval, the Agriculture Ministry examines the status of the land, the requirement of the nutrients, which are the nutrients required in a particular type of soil, the crops they are taking up—all these factors are taken into consideration. For a particular crop, a particular type of nutrients is required. Accordingly, the proportion is fixed. And if that proportion is according to the pattern of cropping and to the nutrients required by the soil, it is approved by the Agriculture Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The hon. Minister might

have been of the view that the product pattern of the fertilizers was not good and it was because of this that the committee was constituted.

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The hon. Member has misunderstood the position. The committee is for fixing the price of combined fertilizers. It is not for proposing the combinations. The combinations are already there; but they have only to suggest the prices, taking into consideration the cost-benefit ratio.

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : *rose*

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing. Now next question No. 108. Dr. Vijaya Ram Rao and Mr. Manik Reddy are not there. Question No. 109, Mr. Lakshman Mallick is also not there. Now Question 110. Shri Sharad Dighe.

Of take of wheat from Public Distribution System

*110. **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during January and August, 1985 the offtake of wheat from the public distribution system (PDS) was only 1.84 million tonnes although the allocation was 5.3 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The offtake of wheat from the public distribution system from Central Pool during January to August, 1985, was 1.63 million tonnes as against allotment of 5.35 million tonnes.