

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : ...will the Union Minister of Finance further intensify this programme of credit camps in West Bengal to provide further financial help to the poorer sections in spite of the fact that there is a total failure of law and order in the State as also the political threat from a political party in the State ?..

MR. SPEAKER : Only what is pertinent to this question may be answered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will you direct him to ask a proper supplementary ?..

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : His name is 'Asutosh Law'. So he talks of law and order...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know about West Bengal.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : As I stated earlier we have decided to accelerate the flow of credit to the eastern region which includes West Bengal also.

I went to Jalpaiguri. There we distributed loans to 16,550 people. There the Addl. District Collector told me that loan applications sanctioned under the IRDP have not been disbursed and 10,000 to 12,000 applications were given. After my going they have been accepted. They have been pending for the last 2 to 3 years—he has stated. It is for clearance of the arrears and for accelerating ..

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : That means that the banks have not been functioning properly and they did not disburse the amount...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : It is they who have created this mess and now they want to pass on the blame to the Central Government...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Vyasji, do you not see what hour is this ? You should know that it is the Question Hour...

[English]

You can have a discussion. But this is Question Hour and not a discussion hour.

Import of Sugar in 1986-87

*83. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to import sugar to meet anticipated shortage for domestic consumption during the year 1986-87;

(b) if so, the details of the shortage assessed by Government; and

(c) when a decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). The Sugar Year 1986-87 starts from 1.10.1986. Therefore, at this stage, it is too early to make any assessment regarding the anticipated sugar production in the Sugar Year 1986-87 and consequently a view can be taken in this regard only by the end of 1986.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question asked by me is :

[English]

"Whether Government are considering a proposal to import sugar to meet anticipated shortage for domestic consumption during the year 1986-87 ?"

[Translation]

And here reference has been made to production besides the domestic consumption. Since we are formulating the Seventh Five Year Plan, we have also drawn estimates as to what would be our production and consumption each year. Accordingly, I want to

know what targets have we fixed in respect of production and consumption and what would be the likely shortfall. With a view to meeting the consumption, we had also held a meeting in December at the level of the Cabinet Secretary. In that meeting also, it was discussed that we would import raw sugar, reprocess it here and supply that sugar to the consumers. I want to know whether keeping this in view, have the Government held discussions with the sugar industry or not and if so, what were the results thereof? How are you going to meet the shortage? Are you going to evolve a new sugar policy? In case you propose to frame a new sugar policy, the time by which the same would be implemented?

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA : In fact this year the production of sugar is quite encouraging and if I can give the figures ..

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : 1986-87 estimated production I am talking.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : For the estimate of the year which has not yet been completed, we have to take into consideration the previous year, and the manner in which production is increasing. In 1985-86, as on 7th February, 1986, we are quite high up in production—38.04 lakh tonnes. The corresponding figure for the same period last year was 33.15 lakh tonnes. Our expected production is estimated at 65 lakh tonnes. As regards the estimated demand, that is, consumption or requirement, it is expected to be 85 lakh tonnes. When the figures are 65 lakh tonnes and 85 lakh tonnes, where does the balance come from? The balance comes from the carry-over, that is, 14.24 lakh tonnes as on 1st October, 1985; then released but undespached levy sugar is 2.54 lakh tonnes; the balance unreleased sugar is 11.70 lakh tonnes. The estimated production is 65 lakh tonnes, as I have already said. Imported sugar as available in 1985 is 14.10 lakh tonnes. The total comes to 90.80 lakh tonnes, and the expected requirement would be 85 lakh tonnes. Therefore, we will have an estimated carry over of 5.80 lakh tonnes. There will be no shortage.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : My question has not been answered. I was asking about 1986-87 and he has replied for 1985-86.

[Translation]

I am asking about 1986-87. You have given no reply as to what decision has been taken in the matter of importing sugar. Then you have also not replied about the reprocessing of sugar and framing a new sugar sale policy which was under consideration of the Government. I have yet another supplementary to ask. Therefore, you please reply to my first supplementary and then only I shall put the other one.

MR. SPEAKER : You put your second supplementary also. Reply to both will be coming together.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you insist I shall put my second supplementary also, but at the same time, I shall insist on having a reply to my first supplementary as well. My second supplementary is that in view of the shortage of sugar, to the Government propose to give more incentive to late crushing from 1st April in view of the fall in recovery in summer so as to raise the sugar production and do the Government purpose to give incentive early next year? The incentive given by you last year did not result in increase in sugar production and it rather came out to be a disincentive. Therefore, are you going to give incentive early for the next year or not?

[English]

Please reply to both the questions. Otherwise, it is no use putting questions in the House.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : The first part of the question, I have already answered. Coming to the second part, regarding incentives, the Government is fully aware and conscious of this. Therefore, two main systems have been evolved: one is short term incentive and the other, long-term. So far as the short-term is concerned, the price was Rs. 14; it has been increased, because of the recommendation, to Rs. 16.50; next year, it is going up to Rs. 17/-. In fact, the producers get from the millers a higher amount according to the State; it varies from Rs. 20 to Rs. 27. Secondly, so far as production during the lean months is concerned, October-November, in order to increase the production, in the beginning of the season,

excise duty rebate on the extra production made during the lean months has been allowed.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : The total milling capacity in our country is ten million tonnes. We need 8.5 million tonnes of sugar. Last year the production, according to the Minister, was only 5.9 million tonnes...

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : It is not production. Carryover.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I want to know whether the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture have any coordination between them as to how much production of cane we require. The farmers are burning their cane and the Commerce Ministry is importing sugar from outside. I want to know whether the Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture will have coordination and also whether they are going to announce the prices one year ahead so that the farmers can grow more and more to meet the requirements.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : There is coordination between the Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture. Otherwise, how can we achieve this? This is a request for action. As regards the second part for the next year we have made it Rs. 17/-. It has already been declared. This year it is Rs. 16 5.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM FYARE PANIKA : So far as the problem of sugar is concerned, it is an established fact that the farmers produce more in the year in which they are given incentive. The information this year from all the States is that in spite of the fact that some of the mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have paid sugarcane price more than what the State Government or the Central Government have fixed, the area under sugarcane has not increased. Will the Hon. Minister give an assurance in the House that after giving due consideration to the inputs, the Government would announce remunerative price for the next year well in advance so as to encourage the farmers to grow sugarcane in order to save foreign exchange on the import of sugar?

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Reasonable price to the farmers is one of the items. There are various other factors involved so that price of sugar is controlled and availability made. So far as payment to farmers is concerned earlier it was Rs. 14 which was increased this year to Rs. 16.5 and for the next year we have made it Rs. 17/-. We have already declared it. The main reason for shortfall is drought which we had in the last two years. This year we are picking up and the production is good.

Consumer Protection Guidelines

*84. **DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the recent Seminar on Consumer Protection held in Delhi on 20-21 January 1986, Consumer Guidance Society of India had suggested for adoption Consumer Protection Guidelines :

(b) if so, the action proposed thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to give special consideration to consumer safety, supply of goods, and services of mandatory standards;

(d) whether for ensuring the above, effective consumer laws and consumer education through mass media, will be introduced;

(e) whether consumer protection priorities will be given to food, water and pharmaceutical; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). A Statement is given below.

Statement

An All India Seminar on Consumer Protection was held in New Delhi on 20-21 January, 1986 to discuss various Administrative, legal and Monitoring measures for consumer protection including Draft Model Law on Consumer Protection to be adopted by the States/Union Territories. The seminar