

that the poorest section of the population would be benefited. Besides the fact that the supply of milk itself is not adequate, bulk of it is not also double-toned and, therefore, the poorest of the poor are not the actual beneficiaries of the World Food Programme. The objective of the World Food Programme is thus defeated and, more affluent people are benefited because they only can afford to take this milk which has more fat content.

That being the situation, will the Hon. Minister see to it that the objective of the World Food Programme is fulfilled by supplying more and more double-toned milk so that the poor people would be benefited?

MR. SPEAKER: It is too long a question.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: There is very little double-toned milk being produced at present and whatever double-toned milk is produced is, to the best of my knowledge, being supplied to institutions for the poor and for school children through the local bodies.

Sugar Production

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*111. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's sugar production during the last season was expected to be a record high and if so, how much;

(b) is it a fact that domestic consumption has gone down during the year compared to the previous year;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to dispose of the surplus sugar?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Sugar production in the last season (i.e. October, 1980 to September, 1981) was 51.43 lakh tonnes compared to 38.59 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 season. However, the said production of 51.43 lakh tonnes in 1980-81 season was lower than the record production of 64.62 lakh tonnes in 1977-78 and 58.44 lakh tonnes in 1978-79.

(b) and (c). With a carry-over stock of 6.82 lakh tonnes at the beginning of the 1980-81 season and the production of 51.43 lakh tonnes in that season together with import of 2.14 lakh tonnes, the total availability in 1980-81 sugar year amounted to 60.39 lakh tonnes only which was lower than the availability of 80.86 lakh tonnes, 91.80 lakh tonnes and 61.75 lakh tonnes in the sugar years 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80 respectively. Due to this reduced overall availability of sugar in the 1980-81 sugar year, and also judicious monthly releases in that context, the internal consumption in that year was somewhat lower at 49.80 lakh tonnes as compared to 52.03 lakh tonnes in the 1979-80 sugar year.

(d) The entire carry over of sugar with factories as on 1-10 1981 as also major portion of imported sugar has already been utilised for internal consumption during October and November, 1981. A small balance of about 39,400 tonnes of imported sugar has also been released for internal consumption for December, 1981.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: It is really a comprehensive answer. I have to congratulate the hon. Minister for increasing the production from 38 lakh tonnes during the Janata rule to 52 lakh tonnes in one year; this year we are expecting a production of about 70 lakh tonnes. When our actual consumption is only about 52 lakh tonnes and when this year our production will be over 70 lakh tonnes. I want to know from the

hon. Minister how he is going to deal with the surplus sugar.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We shall be very happy to deal with surplus sugar by way of exports and by creation of a buffer stock; and larger quantities would be supplied in the free market.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Of course, the production is going to be very high this year. I want to know whether he is going to take any steps to protect the sugar factories and also the sugarcane growers from falling prices; If there are injudicious releases of sugar, I am afraid, the sugarcane growers will be badly hit. I want to know what is the policy of release of sugar.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The policy of release of sugar remains the same as it was last year. The quantity of levy sugar to be released, we hope, will increase in accordance with the increase in population according to the recent census; Members, I hope, would be happy to know that; and the free sale quantities will be regulated according to the market trends. We would not like prices to go too high nor shall we allow the prices to crash to such an extent that the factories suffer losses.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: A carry-over stock of 21.36 lakh tonnes was available last year. This year the figure is only 6.6 lakh tonnes. What steps have been taken to build a buffer stock, including imports? Also what steps have been taken to

curb smuggling, that is, sugar being taken out of the country to Pakistan?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If the hon. Member gives any specific information about smuggling taking place from any point in the country, we shall be very thankful to him.

The carry-over stock of such a low level as six lakh tonnes was on account of reduced production in the past years. The hon. Member knows that the position has been improving since this Government took over. This year we expect a bumper sugarcane crop and a large production of sugar.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: What about imports?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Why imports? We shall export if we have surplus.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, चीनी के उत्पादन में हमेशा उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहा है और होता रहेगा। इस का सम्बन्ध गन्ना से भी है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो उतार-चढ़ाव हमेशा होता रहता है, कभी इम्पोर्ट की बात आती है, कभी किसान का आन्दोलन चलने लगता है, इस को देखते हुए क्या सरकार ने भविष्य के लिए कोई ऐसी योजना या कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है जिस से इस के उत्पादन में भी और दाम में भी एकरूपता रहे और गन्ना और चीनी दोनों का विवाद खत्म हो सके ?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : लोक दल लीडर ने उतार-चढ़ाव की वजह से जो भी सबक हमें सिखाया वह हमेशा याद रहेगा। उससे हम फायदा उठाएंगे और हम वह हालत नहीं होने देंगे।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : यह लोक दल की बात नहीं है और न प्रधान मंत्री इंदिरा गांधी के किसान रैली की बात है। मैं सीधा सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई नीति बनाई है ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We are very careful to see that in future the sugarcane producers get remunerative prices, so that cultivation of sugarcane does not again drop to such an extent as it went down during the last two or three years. Therefore, the fears of the hon. Member are absolutely unfounded.

WRITTEN ANSWERS QUESTIONS

Loss of Crops by Cyclone

*101. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by crops in various parts of the country and particularly in Gujarat due to recent cyclone; and

(b) the assistance provided by the Central Government for the cyclone affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) According to the India Meteorological Department, a severe cyclonic storm with core of hurricane winds hit Saurashtra coast near Mangrol around midnight of 1st November and lay as a cyclonic storm between Porbandar and Jamnagar on the morning of 2nd November. Then it weakened and moved north-eastwards as a deep depression rapidly across Rajasthan and dissipated over the hills of West Uttar Pradesh by 4th November, 1981. According to the report received from the Government of Gujarat, the extent of damage in Gujarat due to this cyclone is as under:—

Cattle lost	13,942
Cropped area affected	11,84,900 ha.
No. of huts collapsed	1128
No. of huts damaged	8686
No. of houses collapsed	677
No. of house damaged	6034
Damage to Fisherman	Rs. 56.38
Boats, nets, salt pans etc.	lakhs
Estimated value of the Public properties like roads, irrigation works, Government buildings ect.	Rs. 783.63 lakhs

No report of damage from other parts of the country has been received.

(b) A detailed Memorandum of the damage and quantum of Central assistance required has not yet been received from the Government of Gujarat to enable the Central Government to send a Central Team to assess the damage and the requirement of Central assistance to meet the situation.

On the request of the State Government of Gujarat, the Government of India recently sanctioned a ways and means advance of Rs. 5 crores. Besides, the Government of Gujarat has been sanctioned Rs. 8 crores (Rs. 5 crores for Kharif and Rs. 3 crores for Rabi) as short term loan for purchase and Distribution of agricultural inputs to the farmers.

राजस्थान में रेगिस्तान के फैलाव को रोकना

*102. आचार्य भगवान बेव : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रशांत तथा एशिआई देशों सम्बन्धी आर्थिक और सामाजिक संगठन द्वारा हाल में जोधपुर (राजस्थान) में आयोजित वर्कशॉप में रेगिस्तान के फैलाव को रोकने के लिए क्या निर्णय लिए गये ;

Population affected 54 lakhs

Number of human lives lost 14