

month. However, levy quotas for States are fixed on the basis of all-India norms, and not with reference to State's assessment. On this basis Andhra Pradesh Government is being allotted a monthly levy sugar quota of 20,882 tonnes for distribution through fair price shops.

The existing monthly levy sugar quotas of various States, including Andhra Pradesh, are based on 425 grams of per capita availability for the projected population as on 14-1978. These quotas were fixed with effect from December, 1977. Due to increase in population during the last 3½ years or so, the per capita availability in various States has come down to a corresponding extent but due to limited availability of levy sugar it has not been possible to increase the quotas of all the States with reference to the latest population figures.

(d) The question of upward revision of State-wise levy sugar quotas on the basis of uniform norms will be examined in the light of sugar production and availability position in the current 1981-82 sugar year.

Policy on removal of forests

*303. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for the removal of forests and minor forest produce in the country;

(b) if so, details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received complaints against this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The policy of the Government of India is to eliminate contractors' agency in

harvesting the forest produce from forests, so that the benefits reach the persons, directly involved in the work. The Government of India have urged the State Governments, who manage the forests, to organise the harvesting activities through Tribal (Labour) Cooperatives, Cooperative Societies or Forest Development Corporations and, in any case, not to lease out to private individuals.

(c) The Government have not received any complaints against this policy.

(d) Does not arise.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में नदियों के रास्तों को नियंत्रित करना

*304. श्री कृष्ण दत्त सुल्तानपुरी : क्या सिंचाई मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दशनि वाला विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में ऐसी कितनी नदियां हैं, जिन्होंने राज्य की लाखों एकड़ भूमि का क्षरण किया है और क्या इस संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया है और यदि हां, तो कब ;

(ख) नदियों के रास्तों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किए गए उपायों का ब्यौरा क्या है और इससे संबंधित योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान इस कार्य पर कुल कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई है और इस बारे में भविष्य की योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री केदार पांडे) :

(क) से (ग). हिमाचल प्रदेश में सतुलज व्यास रावी, घग्गर, चेनाब और यमुना तथा उनकी सहायक नदियों द्वारा कटाव का खतरा होता है जिससे तट लाइनें कृषि योग्य क्षेत्र और निवास-स्थान

प्रभावित होते हैं। क्षेत्रों को कटाव से सुरक्षित करने के लिए ठोकरों (स्पर्श) पुश्टों (रिवेटपेन्ट्स), रोक बांधों आदि जैसे उपाय किए गए हैं। राज्य सरकार ने अपने द्वारा निर्धारित की गई प्राथमिकताओं के अनुसार लगभग 250 कटाव रोधी स्कोमें प्रारम्भ की हैं।

गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान बाढ़ नियंत्रण और कटाव रोधी निर्माण-कार्यों (अधिकांशतः कटाव रोधी निर्माण कार्यों) पर वर्ष-वार वास्तविक व्यय निम्न प्रकार से है:—

| वर्ष | लाख रुपये |
|---------|-----------|
| 1976-77 | 9.00 |
| 1977-78 | 67.00 |
| 1978-79 | 149.00 |
| 1979-80 | |
| 1980-81 | 58.65 |

और सुरक्षित किया गया क्षेत्र लगभग 7000 हेक्टेयर है।

Release of sandalwood forest for non-forest purposes

*305. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

SHRI SATYASADAN
CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indiscriminate release of sandalwood forest land for non-forestry purposes has endangered the sandalwood industry of the country;

(b) if so, details of the damage caused due to this factor;

(c) whether Government are going to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, in what way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No indiscriminate release of sandal wood forest land for non-forestry purposes has been made and so the question of sandalwood industry in the country being endangered does not arise.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d). Efforts are being made for planting of sandal trees in and outside its natural zone, and research is being conducted for control of diseases to which sandal trees are prone.

Excise relief for late crushing of sugarcane

*306. SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide excise relief to sugar mills undertaking late crushing of cane; and

(b) if so, what is the additional production that Government hope to get in this process?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) In view of the bumper sugarcane crop, Government anticipate the crushing to go on in the summer months in order to crush the maximum possible quantity of cane. The question of granting excise duty rebate to sugar industry for late crushing is under examination.

(b) Quantum of sugar production depends upon various factors like recovery, duration, etc. and it is not possible to isolate and quantify the additional production attributable to excise rebate alone.