

### Incentive for Sugarcane Cultivation

\*84. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide incentives for increasing the cultivation of sugarcane in the light of shortage of production of sugar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) & (b). Assured price of any crop is the best incentive to the producers. Accordingly, the Government of India had fixed the minimum statutory price of sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 12.50 per quintal linked to a sugar recovery of 85 per cent during 1979-80. This was Rs. 2.50 per quintal higher than the price fixed in the year 1978-79. The minimum statutory sugarcane price for 1980-81 is still under consideration of the Government.

The Governments of Haryana and Punjab have constituted State Sugarcane Boards, Chaired by respective State Agricultural Ministers. These boards recommend the prices payable by sugar factories over and above the statutory minimum price fixed by the Government of India. The Government of Maharashtra have also constituted a ministerial level committee under the Chairmanship of the State Chief Minister to determine the final prices of sugarcane payable by cooperative sugar factories in the State. The Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh provided subsidy during 1978-79 to enable the sugar factories to give higher price to the growers. The Government of Haryana has continued the scheme during 1979-80 as well.

Besides this, some of the State Governments are providing incentives in the form of subsidy on (i) cost of pesticides, seed and aerial spraying operations (ii) provision of interest free loans to the growers and (iii) organising demonstrations on the growers' fields.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: The hon. Minister said in his reply that the assured price of any crop is the best incentive to the producers. But in the case of sugarcane, it is not only the assured price which will be the best incentive to the producers, but the question is whether the factories will take the sugarcane produce by the cultivators. That is also important. Here, the farmer is helpless, he cannot sell his produce in the open market and if the produce stands in the field for a longer period of time, the cost of cultivation also goes up.

He has further said that the minimum statutory sugarcane price for 1980-81 is still under consideration of the Government. As we see from the figures of 1979-80, the minimum statutory price for 1979-80 was Rs. 12.50 per quintal, while it was double in the open market because of much less cultivation of sugar. Will the Government now consider the actual cost of cultivation for fixing the statutory minimum price for the next year? It is because every year the cost of inputs goes on increasing and the cost of cultivation also increases by 10 to 30 per cent, but the minimum price is fixed on the basis of figures for last year. I want to know the basis for fixation of the price and what about the average yield of sugarcane? This is because the figures taken for calculating the price are.....

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? No speech please.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: What is going to be the basis for fixation of price of sugarcane for next year?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: All the factors mentioned by the hon. Members are taken into consideration by the Agricultural Prices Commission, while recommending the minimum support prices for sugarcane, as well as other foodgrains.

The hon. Member has asked as to what is the average yield of sugarcane per hectare. During 1978-79, it was

50.16 metric tonnes per hectare, and in the year previous to that, it was 56.16 metric tonnes per hectare.

As regard the fixation of price, the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission have come to the Government. They are under consideration, and a decision will be taken by the Cabinet some time.

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:** Regarding incentives, there are often two categories. One is the sugar cane cultivator in the area of operation of the factories; and the other is the sugar-cane cultivator outside such area. The factories invariably give some incentive, i.e. it is Rs. 500 per acre in Maharashtra. If a sugar cane cultivator is outside the area of operation of the factory, he is not given the incentive. Most of the fluctuation is about the sugar-cane cultivated outside the area of the factory. I want to know whether Government will consider giving incentives to the cultivators who fall outside the area of sugar factories and who are not given any incentive by the factories—just as they are given Rs. 500 per acre in sugar factories' area.

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** We have a programme of encouraging the production of sugar cane during next year. We are organizing demonstrations for the farmers, and thinking of various other ways and means of teaching the farmer how to increase the yield, because the yield per acre in India is very low, compared to other countries. Even in areas outside the sugar factory areas, we shall give all possible encouragement to farmers to increase their yield and to cultivate sugar cane in larger areas.

**श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप के माध्यम से मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन मिलों ने पिछली बार जो सपोर्ट प्राइस फिक्स की थी, उतनी कीमत किसानों को नहीं दी है, उनके खिलाफ प्रशासन क्या कदम उठाने जा रहा है?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** Government has powers, under the

Taking Over the Management of Sugar Factories Act, to take over and run such mills which fail to pay dues to the sugar-cane producers or do not run the factories in time or close the factories before time. If any specific cases are brought to the notice of the Government, we will see that the dues are paid to the farmers.

**श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर :** हमारे यहाँ मध्य प्रदेश में जावरा शूगर फैक्टरी पर किसानों का 32 लाख रुपया बकाया है। तीन साल से उस ने पैमेंट नहीं की है।

**MR. SPEAKER:** You can write to the Minister.

**श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खा :** अभी मंत्री जी ने फरमाया कि एग्गोर्ड प्राइस शूगरकेन है वह बेस्ट इन्सेटिव है और दूसरे यह फरमाया कि जहाँ पर ड्यूज बाकी हैं अगर उनको गवर्नमेंट आफ इन्डिया के नोटिस में लाया जाएगा, तो एक्शन लिया जाएगा। मैं नियोली शूगर फैक्टरी, जो एटा जिले में है, उसके बारे में पूछना चाहता हूँ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उसके लिए लिख कर आप भेज दीजिए।

**श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खा :** यह रिकार्ड पर आ जाए, इसलिए मैं पूछ रहा हूँ कि जो नियोली शूगर फैक्टरी एटा की है...

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is not a question, but a statement of fact.

**श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खा :** मैं बात ही पूछना। पिछले कृषिग सीजन का इस फैक्टरी से 80 लाख रुपये से ज्यादा का पैमेंट किसानों का बाकी है। क्या मंत्री महोदय कृपा करके यह बताएँ कि वे इस फैक्टरी के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन लेंगे?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उन्होंने बताया तो है कि अगर कोई ऐसी रिपोर्ट आएगी तो एक्शन लेंगे।

**श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खा :** उन के खिलाफ एक्शन लेंगे और पैसा दिलवाने की कोशिश करेंगे।

**श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव :** जितनी शिकायतें हमारे पास ऐसी फैक्टरियों के खिलाफ आएंगी, उनके लिए जरूर एक्शन लेंगे और पैसा दिलवादे की ही कोशिश नहीं करेंगे बल्कि पैसा दिलवाया जाएगा।

श्री रामलगीना सिन्धु : मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि गन्ना तथा चीनी का मूल्य कृषि मूल्य भाषायोग की सिफारिशों पर निर्धारित किये जाते हैं और उसके अनुसार चीनी तथा गन्ना का क्या रेट होगा, वह निश्चित करते हैं। इस तरह से उस के अनुसार दाम चीनी गन्ने के निश्चित हो जाते हैं परन्तु बाद में चीनी के दाम बढ़ जाते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब गन्ने के दाम वही रहते हैं, और मालिकों को ज्यादा पैसा चीनी के दाम बढ़ने से मिलता है, तो यह जो अन्तर होता है, उस में से किसानों को मुनाफे के रूप में या बोनस के रूप में कुछ देन का प्रबन्ध करेंगे।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : एग््रीकल्चरल प्राइसिज कमिशन सिर्फ शूगर केन का भाव रिकमंड करता है, चीनी का भाव मुकरर करने से उसका तालुक नहीं है।

### Sale of Kerosene at Higher Prices

\*85. SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that kerosene is sold at much higher prices in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to enable every citizen, rural or urban, to get the kerosene at the prescribed rate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Government is aware of reports of kerosene oil being sold in some areas at prices higher than the controlled prices.

(b) The problems of black-marketing and other mal-practices arise when supplies of the product fall short of the demand. The present critical situation regarding the availability of petroleum products has been reviewed recently and we are making efforts to supply kerosene during the month of March 1980 at a level 10 per cent higher than the actual sales in March 1979. The retail prices of kerosene are fixed under the Essential Commodities Act. We have also advised the State Governments to take stern action against

black-marketing and other such mal-practice under the Essential Commodities Act as well as under the provisions of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act. The oil companies have also been advised to tighten their supervision over the outlets and distribution arrangements.

श्री सतीश प्रसाद सिंह : क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि देहाती इलाकों में गरीबों के लिए केरोसीन आयल एक बहुत आवश्यक वस्तु है और उसकी सप्लाई जितनी बढ़ाने की बात कही गई है क्या उससे उनकी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हो जाएगी?

श्री बीरेन्द्र पाटिल : जो तेल हम सप्लाई कर रहे हैं उसको सप्लाई करते वक़्त हमने स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट्स को इस्टिमेशन दे दिए हैं कि जहाँ तक रूरल एरियाज का सम्बन्ध है, एग््रीकल्चरिस्ट्स का सम्बन्ध है, उनको टाप प्रायरेटि दी जाए उसमें कोई ठिलाई न हो।

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: The basic problem is the short supply of kerosene. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the stock position at present and what is the State-wise quota decided by the Central Government and what is the possibility of augmenting the supply either by increasing production in the country, or by importing kerosene from abroad?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as the stock position is concerned, I can say that the production in the country is around 2.6 million tonnes. During 1980, we have a plan to import 1.7 million tonnes in addition to the 2.6 million tonnes that we are producing indigenously. The monthly average import is about 1.50 lakh tonnes and we have been supplying at the rate of nearly 3½ lakh tonnes to different States every month.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What is the amount of shortfall of kerosene that can answer the needs of the requirement? Is it a fact that the prices of kerosene are 75 per cent more due to taxes? As far as poor people are concerned, will you wipe out these taxes and give them kerosene at reasonable