

Profit to sugar factories due to increase in free sale quota of sugar

*291. SHRI BIREN DUTTA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the free sale quota of sugar by 5 per cent from 30 per cent to 35 per cent; and

(b) whether the sugar factory owners will get Rs. 100 crores over profit due to this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 5 per cent increase in the quota of free-sale sugar was decided solely to avoid an increase in the price of levy sugar. It is too early to say whether at all, and if so, to what extent, this will result in the industry getting additional profits. It will depend on the average of the realisations by the industry from the disposal of free sale sugar over the full year.

काहिरा और सारतूम के कृषि मंत्रियों के साथ बातचीत

292. श्री जांबवंत धोटे : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्रों यह वतान की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या काहिरा और सारतूम के कृषि मंत्रियों के साथ उनकी हम देश की यात्रा के दौरान व्यापार के किन्हीं पहलुओं पर चर्चा की गई थी; और

(ख) यदि हा. तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

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कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी साहिब पी० शिन्दे): संयुक्त अरब गणराज्य तथा मूडन के कृषि मंत्रियों ने हाल में भारत का दौरा नहीं किया।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Increase in prices of vanaspati after decontrol

293. SHRI C K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether principal manufacturers of vanaspati like Hindustan Lever Limited have fabulously increased their prices in the wake of 'decontrol';

(b) whether despite this price increase Hindustan Lever Limited are keeping their capacity idle, and

(c) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Following decontrol of vanaspati prices on the 5th January, 1975, a number of factories increased their prices marginally (by 4 to 5 per cent), mainly in respect of the product packed in small containers; the increase in the case of Hindustan Lever Limited was slightly higher, averaging 6.5 per cent (with zonal variations). Later, some of them (including Hindustan Lever Limited) reduced their prices of either pack-size.

(b) There has been an appreciable increase in the production of vanaspati by Hindustan Lever Limited in its three working units (the fourth is under sale) from 692 tonnes in December 1974 to 2,314 tonnes in January 1975 and 1,615 tonnes in the first half of February 1975. A portion of the capacity in two of these units is also