

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The uniform retail price of levy sugar remained unchanged at Rs. 2.15 per kg. throughout the country during January to September, 1974. A statement (Appendix) showing the retail prices of free-sale sugar during the same period in important centres of the country is attached. It will be seen that retail prices of free-sale sugar were fairly stable till about June, 1974. The rise in the prices thereafter is attributable to the following reasons—

- (i) Cut in sugar quota released for internal consumption, involving corresponding reduction in the quantum of levy sugar available for distribution through fair price shops and the consequent building up of pressure on free-sale sugar.
- (ii) Increase in the rate of excise duty on free-sale sugar from 30 per cent to 37½ per cent *ad valorem* from 15th December, 1973 and the upward revision in tariff value of free-sale sugar from June, 1974
- (iii) Export of sugar during 1974 being much higher than that in 1973
- (iv) General inflationary trend in the economy.

Proposal for Increase in Premium over the Basic Recovery from Sugarcane

***97. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for increase in premium over the basic recovery from sugarcane for the current crushing season is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the percentage therein; and

(c) the reaction of the sugar industries and sugarcane growers in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) to (c) The basic minimum cane prices for the current 1974-75 crushing season has already been fixed by the Government of India at Rs 850 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent or below with a premium of 10 paise for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above 8.5 per cent. This notified price involves an increase over the minimum cane price of Rs. 8 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent or below with a premium of 9.4 paise for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above 8.5 per cent which was in force during the last two crushing seasons

Reports received so far indicate that the industry as well as the growers are not satisfied with the increase allowed

Enquiry into disbursement of loans in Mawryngkeng Development Block

***98 SHRI BIREN ENGTI**
SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 2778 on the 19th August, 1974 and state

(a) whether the report from the State Government of Meghalaya regarding alleged large scale corruption in the disbursement of loans and grants in the Mawryngkeng Development Block of the Khasi Hills under the SFDA scheme has been received, and

(b) if not, what is the cause for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.