

(b) and (c). Representations have been received from time to time for locating a new cooperative sugar factory at Renigunta. The State Government have again recently written about this matter. It has been decided to conduct an enquiring on the spot study of the area afresh to report on the suitability of the scheme.

Export of Sugar to those countries whose production has fallen down

*1309. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any attempt to enter into agreement for the sale of sugar with such foreign countries whose production of sugar has fallen down in 1971 ;

(b) if so, the rates per quintal of sugar and the names of those countries ; and

(c) whether Government are proposing any measures to increase the export of sugar for the year 1972 ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). Sales of sugar for export are generally made by inviting tenders. In the case of Ceylon, however, Government to Government sales were made and a quantity of 40,000 tonnes and 20,000 tonnes was sold in 1970 and 1971 respectively. These sales were made at the following rates :

		1970	
Quantity		Price	
(1)	10,000 M. tons	£39-15 Od. per long ton F.O.B.S.	Payment within 365 days from the day of shipment
(2)	20,000 M. tons	£45-15 Od. per long ton F.O.B.S.	-do-
(3)	10,000 M. tons	£47-0 Od. per long ton F.O.B.S.	-do-

1971

(1) 20,000 M. tons £54-0 Od. per metric tons. F.O.B.S. Payment within 180 days from the date of shipment

(c) Under the International Sugar Agreement (ISA) we have in 1971 an ISA quota of about 2.44 lakh tonnes and preferential quotas of 0.96 lakh tonnes for export to U.K. (25,400 tonnes) and U.S.A. (about 71,200 tonnes). The ISA quota and U.K. quota are likely to remain at the same level in 1972. The U.S. Sugar Act, under which exports to U.S.A. are made, is valid up to 1971 and is under review at present. Efforts have been made by us to get an increase in our quota. The final decision by the U.S. Government is still awaited.

Demand for constitution of Wage Board for Beedi Industry

*1310 SHRI A. K. SAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the demand made by General Council of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) to formulate a comprehensive National Wage Board for the workers engaged in Beedi industry ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Steel Plant in West Bengal

*1311. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have demanded to set up a Steel Plant in the district of Purulia, West Bengal ; and