SHRI N. K. SOMANI: What is the total quantity of rice proposed to be imported in the current financial year and what is the price differential between the landed cost of rice and the price at which the consumer buys it in the ration shops?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The hon. Member is aware that we subsidise actually the imported rice to a certain extent.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI: What is the price differential?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): So far as next year's import is concerned, a final decision has not been taken yet.

SHRI PILOO MODY : What about last year?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Last year, *i.e.* the current year, whatever was to be imported has been finished. So far as the next year is concerned, a final decision has not been taken yet.

श्वी क० ना० तिवारी ः चावल का डोमे-स्टिक प्राइस ग्रीर फौरन प्राइस क्या है? दोनों में कितना फर्क है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: May I reply to that question? The prices of imported rice are comparatively higher than the prices of indigenous rice.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Question No. 604.

भी रवि रायः यह जो दूसरा सवाल है, इसको ग्राप कल रख देते तो ग्रच्छा होता। कल होम मिनिस्ट्री का दिन है, कल हो सकता है। सात दिन के लिये टाल देना ठीक नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER: I am told that it is coming up on the 20th. That is what I am told. We will see.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI: I have also sent a question about hungerstrike in Bhopal. That has been transferred to the 22nd. I do not know why the question was transferred to 22nd. MR. SPEAKER: I cannot say anything now. I myself do not know. This must have been done because perhaps the minister wanted that date. I will enquire into that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Question 603, which is an important question has been shifted to the 20th. I have no grouse against that, but will it secure the same place on that day?

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into that. Next question,

SUGAR MILLS IN MADHYA PRADESH

*604. SHRI BHAGABAN DAS : SHRI B. K. MODAK : SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN ;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the 5 Sugar Mills in Madhya Pradesh have decided to close down the mills during the coming crushing season;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the total number of workers likely to be affected by the closure; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to stop closure of the mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). All the 5 Sugar Mills in Madhya Pradesh had put up closure notices on account of inadequate availability of sugarcane, but it is understood from the State Government that 2 of them propose to work during the season.

(c) If all the 5 Sugar Factories do not work the total number of workers likely to be affected is about 4,000.

(d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been making efforts to persuade the managements to run the sugar factories even for limited periods and as a result of these efforts the managements of two sugar factories have applied to them for declaration of reserved areas, श्वी भगवान दास : सरकार को मालूम है कि देश में चीनी की कमी है, दूसरी तरफ़ गन्नान मिलने से वहां की पांच फैक्ट्रियां बन्द हैं। मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर गन्ने की कीमत ज्यादा दे कर सरकार इन फैक्ट्रियों को चालू क्यों नहीं रखती है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I have already said in my main reply that the State Government is trying to persuade the mills to go into production, but the main difficulty is about the availability of cane. My information is that the factories do not have adequate cane. Even if they get all the cane that is available, some of the factories are likely to run for 11 days, 14 days, for 28 days and so on. So, the difficulty is about availability of cane. Even if adequate price is paid, the difficulty would still remain.

श्री भगवान दास : सरकार को मालूम है कि भोपाल के पास सिहोर शुगर फैक्ट्ररी बन्द है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि वह कब तक खलेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is not possible for me to indicate when individual factories will go into production.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: What about Dalauda and Joura sugar factories? Are they going to work and if not, what steps are the Government going to take?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Joura factory, I understand has got cane which will be adequate for running the factory for 14 days only. The main difficulty is, as a result of severe drought conditions in MP the cane acreage has gone down from 1.93 lakh acres to 1.25 lakh acres in the whole State. In the factory area also the can acreage has substantially gone down. It is not within my hands because cane is not available.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: After twenty years of planning, this is the state of affairs!

श्री अमर सिंह सहगल : क्या यह सत्य है कि गन्ने की कीमत कम होने के कारण जो काक्तकार गन्ना बोते थे, वे झब नहीं बो रहे हैं झौर जिसके कारण शुगर मिलों को सप्साई कम हो रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस कठिनाई को दूर करने के लिये क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Sir, as the hon. Member himself is aware, up to 1965-66 there was abundance of sugarcane available in the country and the cane acreage was 68 lakhs in the country. But the conditions changed during the last two years. The hon, Member knows that the last two years were very difficult years from the point of view of rainfall, because the main sugarcane growing areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh That is suffered very severe droughts. why the can acreage has gone down as a result of which sugar production has suffered.

भी महाराज सिंह भारती ः मंत्री जी का कहना है कि सूखे की वजह से गन्ने का रकवा घटा है। अब मेरठ में सूखे का कोई असर नहीं पड़ता वहां पर सिंचाई के बहुत बड़े भौर भारी साघन मौजुद हैं लेकिन मेरठ में भी भारी तादाद में गन्ने का रक़बा घटा है। पिछले दो साल में गन्ने का भाव कम रहने से गन्ना कम बोया गया मैं यह जानना चाहता हुं कि इस बार जो सरकार ने ऐलान किया है कि गन्ने का भाव 7 रुपये 37 पैसे प्रति क्विंटल है ग्रौर बाजार में गन्ना खरीदा जा रहा है 15 रुपये क्विंटल, क्या यह सच है कि चुंकि सरकार ने गन्ने का पक्का भाव 7 रुपये 37 पैसे क्विंटल किया है ग्रीर बाजार में जो 15 रुपये क्विटल है तो वह तो भ्रभाव का भाव है। गन्ने की कमी होने की वजह यह भी है कि काश्तकार यह समझ कर कि ग्रगले सारे साल उसका गन्ना 7 रुपये 37 पैसे क्विंटल बिकना है इसलिए वह इस साल भी गन्ना सप्लाई नहीं कर रहा है श्रौर उसका अधिक से श्रधिक भाव लेकर गड़ ग्रौर खंडसारी में उसे ले जा रहा है, तो ऐसी हालत में सरकार क्या गन्ने का न्यूनतम भाव बढ़ाने की बात सोच रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I do not think that we can reconsider at this stage the question of raising the minimum price. In fact, I may submit, the farmers who are getting a higher price are getting it as a result of our policy. It is because of the policy of partial decontrol that the factory owners are in a position to pay a much higher price than the minimum price.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : ग्रापकी पालिसी से नहीं बल्कि गन्ने की कमी की वजह से मिल रही है।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: That was the intention in adopting the new policy.

श्वी काशो नाथ पाण्डेय : मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह कहा कि ड्रौट की वजह से गन्ने का एकैंज कम हो गया है लेकिन मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं ग्राती क्योंकि वह कौप उस की कम हो सकती है लेकिन एकैंज तो कम नहीं हो सकता। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जैसी कि गवर्नमेंट की पालिसी है कि किसान गन्ना ग्राधिक बोयें तो जाहिर है कि उसके लिए उन्हें समय पर यथेप्ट बीज मिलना चाहिए तो यह बीज उनको ठीक से काफ़ी मिकदार में मिल सके उसके लिए सरकार क्या इंतजाम कर रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I mentioned the main reason that contributed to the fall in production. But I am not saying that other factors were not operating there. In fact, as a result of other agricultural programmes like adoption of high-yielding varieties the per acre yield has gone up very much and the farmers are finding it profitable to have other crops. That factory is also operating. But the main contributing factor during the last two years was failure of rains which led to a reduction in acreage. Though the acreage in area has been reduced, there would be no difficulty in regard to availability of seeds.

अधी महाराज सिंह भारती : ग्रगले साल पछताग्रोगे ग्रगर यही हालत रही।

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: In view of the admitted inadequacy of sugarcane, will the Minister kindly explain the policy of Government sanctioning licences to factories? Would he kindly state how many factories have been closed this year for want of sugarcane and how many new factories are being licensed? MR. SPEAKER : In Madhya Pradesh ?

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: All over the country.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As far as production is concerned, last year, at about this time 167 factories had gone into production out of a total of 202. This year the comparative figure is 170, which means that three more factories have gone into production as compared to last year, out of a total number of 202 factories. The rest are expected to go into production during the next fortnight or so. As far as licensing is concerned, we have not recently licensed any new factory; whatever factories are licensed were licensed during the last few years.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : प्रघ्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मिनिस्टर साहब मुझे बतला सकेंगे कि किसान को गन्ना पैदा करने के लिए, उसे बोने के समय से लेकर काटने तक ग्रौर फिर गाड़ी में लाद कर मिल के फाटक तक ले जाने में कितना इनवैस्ट करना पड़ता है इसके बारे में क्या वह कोई कमीशन बैठाने के लिए तैयार हैं या किसी कमीशन से मालूम किया है कि किसान को गन्ने के लिए कितना इनवैस्टमेंट शुरू से लेकर प्राखिर तक करना पड़ता है ग्रौर ग्रगर नहीं किया है तो क्या उसे करने के लिए तैयार हैं ग्रौर बह कोई प्रोफिट किसान को देने के लिये तैयार है

MR. SPEAKER : From Madhya Pradesh you are moving on to a general question now.

SHRI A. S. SAIGAL : He is asking that in connection with Madhya Pradesh.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : ग्राध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सारे देश का सवाल है ग्रौर खाली मध्य प्रदेश ही गन्ना नहीं बोता है, पंजाब, हरियाणा ग्रौर सारा देश ही गन्ना बोता है । मध्य प्रदेश का गन्ना तो पतला होता है जबकि हरियाणा का गन्ना बड़ा मोटा होता है ग्रौर ग्राध्यक्ष महोदय, ग्रांध प्रदेश का भी गन्ना बड़ा मोटा होता है ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Let him answer if he can. I am afraid, now we are going too far with this question.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: As the hon, Minister has just now admitted that it is because of drought that enough cane has not been produced in the hast two years, may I know whether it is a fact that the production of cane per acre in India is very low as compared to the other sugar-producing countries and that this is mainly because irrigation facilities are not available for the sugarcane fields? Is Government contemplating any plan by which the sugar factories can adopt certain villages around them wherein they put up tubewells and other irrigation facilities at their own cost so that their production of sugarcane can increase? Is Government also contemplating to compel sugar factories to have some farms along with the factories, when they invest money in factories they should also invest money in farms and irrigation facilities, so that this kind of a difficulty may not arise again?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The hon. Member is right when he says that adequate irrigation facilities are not available for sugarcane in some of the States. Take the case of Bihar. There specially 67 per cent of the cane is unirrigated; it is not served by irrigation. Then, in UP also the irrigation percentage is not very satisfactory. But there appears to be an impression that the per-acre yield in our country is not very high. There are two zones—the sub-tropical and the tropical. The tropical zone is South India. tropical areas, specially in Mal In the Maharashtra and certain parts of Gujarat, the yield is as high as in Hawai which is the best in the world; but in the sub-tropical areas the widd is law. the yield the yield is low. However, the Coimba-tore Sugar Research Institute is trying to evolve new varieties of cane and they have achieved some important success in this. The introduction of new varieties and the programme of the type, to which the hon. Member has referred, are being adopted by the State Governments at the initiative of the Centre so that areas round about the factories are undertaken for intensive development of cane cultivation.

SHRI RUPNATH BRAHMA: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the Assam soil is very much suited for sugarcane growing and it can be grown abundantly?

MR. SPEAKER: That is my difficulty. From Madhya Pradesh we are going to State after State. That means, other questions will suffer. The question started with Madhya Pradesh and then we went to Bihar and now to Assam. That is how we lose the other questions. You must ask only about Madhya Pradesh.

भी रामावतार शास्त्री: मंत्री महोदय ने यह बतलाया कि ड्रौट की वजह से गन्ने के एक्रैज में कमी झा गई है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जहां नहरें हैं झौर टयूबबैल्स है जैसा कि मैं जानता हूं बिहार के मन्दर, साउथ बिहार सूगर मिल के ऐरिया में · · ·

MR. SPEAKER : No, please; again, South Bihar. This is about Madhya Pradesh only.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री ः वह मैंनें उदाहरण के तौर पर नाम लिया। मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि चूंकि वहां सिंचाई का इंतजाम नहीं है इस बजह से गन्ना कम पैदा हो रहा है लेकिन मैं जानता हूं कि जहां नहरें हैं, जहां ट्यूबवैल्स हैं वहां भी गन्ने की खेती में कमी ग्रा गयी है तो उन ऐरियाज में गन्ने की खेती में कमी कमो हो रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): If you want me to reply, I will. This question does not arise out of this.

श्री हकम चन्द कछवायः मध्य प्रदेश के ग्रन्दर चीनी की पांच मिलें हैं ग्रौर उनके बंद होने का प्रमुख कारण यह भी है कि चीनी मिलमालिक जब गन्ना खरीदते हैं तो का<mark>क्तक</mark>ार तीन, तीन झौर चार, चार रोज तक वहां ग्रपनी गाड़ियां लिये पड़े रहते हैं स**र्दी के भ्रन्दर** श्रीर उनके गन्ने को तौला नहीं जाता है। उन्हें उसके पैसे भी फौरन नहीं दिये जाते हैं श्रौर वह महीने, महीने भर बाद दिये आते हैं तो इस परेशानी के कारण काश्तकारों ने मिलों को ग्रपना गन्ना देना ग्रच्छा नहीं समझा और वह उस म्रपने गन्ने से स्वयं भाधिक से माधिक गड व खंडसारी बना रहे हैं तो क्या सरकार इसकी व्यवस्था करेगी कि जैसे ही काश्तकार गन्ने से लदी हई गाडी लेकर मिल के फाटक पर पहुंचें वैसे ही उसे तौल कर उतारने मौर तूरन्त गन्ने का पैसा दिया जाय ग्रौर उसमें ओ ग्रभी दलालों द्वारा कमीशन काटा जाता है जो चवन्नी रुपया कमीशन किसान को मिलने वाले दाम में से काटा जाता है वह न कटे, गन्ने के दाम उसे फौरन जल्दी से मिल जायं मौर उसका गन्ना समय पर तौल दिया जाय ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I agree with some of the points raised by the hom. Member, that some factories in India have no proper system of accepting can immediately it is delivered at the gates and consequently the farmers are put to a lot of inconvenience, and that is a very undesirable aspect for the entire harvesting arrangement. In regard to payment of arreas of cane prices also....

MR. SPEAKER: What steps have the government taken in this regard?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am just coming to that. Some factory management deliberately hold up payment of cane prices. We have been requesting the State Governments from time to time to take necessary steps against the factories so that arrears of cane prices are recovered and paid to the farmers.

भी कमल नयन बजाज : मंत्री महोदय ने प्रभी सवाल के जवाब में यह कहा कि इस साल प्रभी तक २०२ फैक्ट्रियों में से १७० फैक्ट्रियों ने काम करना शुरू कर दिया है प्रौर पिछले साल में १६७ मिलें ही काम करती थीं । इससे एक बात की गलतफहमी होने का डर है क्योंकि पिछले साल ग्रभी तक जितनी शुगर बन चुकी थी उसके बदले में इस साल १७० फैक्ट्रियों यानी ३ ग्रधिक फैक्ट्रियों के चलने पर भी कितनी शुगर बनी है, इसकी जानकारी मंत्री महोदय दे दें तो उस से मालूम हो जाएगा? इस साल बहुत सी मिलें ऐसी हैं जो ४०-५० परसेंट भी काम नहीं कर रहीं हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : This question is about Madhya Pradesh only.

श्री कमल नयन बजाज : ग्रघ्यक्ष जी, मैंनें यह सवाल इसलिए पूछा है कि इन्हीं का जवाब जो ग्राया उससे गलतफहमी हो रही है। गलतफहमी होने की संभावना है इसलिए मैंने पूछा है।

PRIORITY IN TRUNK CALLS TO BIRLA FAMILY

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*606. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI : SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADO-RIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some institutions and individuals including the members of the Birla family and officials of

the Birla concerns are given priority in the matter of trunk calls;

(b) if so, what are their names; and

(c) the reasons for which this priority has been given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENT-ARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (2) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसी कितनी संस्थाएं हैं जिनके यहां फोन लगे हैं दफ्त रों में या ऐसे प्रमुख राजनीतिक व्यक्ति या बड़े-बड़े व्यक्ति कितने यहां हैं जिनके यहां फोन लगे हुए हैं, जिनसे राशि लेनी है, फोन का भुगतान लेना है ग्रौर जिन्होंने ग्रभी तक चुकता नहीं किया है? ऐसे कितने हैं ग्रौर कितनी राशि एसी है?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The question relates only to priority calls given to institutions and individuals. Naturally, I am not in a position at the moment to say how many firms owe arrears to the department.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवायः मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ग्राखिर कुछ लोगों को तो ग्राप ने प्राथमिकता दी है यह बात तो सही है तो वह कौन सी शर्तें हैं, कौन सी बातें देखते हैं जिन पर प्राथमिकता देते हैं?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: At the moment no firm or individual is enjoying the priority call concession. Some firms and some individuals were enjoying this concession but that was cancelled in August this year.

श्री राम चरण : ट्रंक काल बुक करने में ऐसा देखा गया है कि बिजनेस एलीमेंट्स जो हैं उनको प्रायरिटी मिलती है जबकि ग्रीर कोई व्यक्ति बुक करता है तो उसको दो-दो घंटे इन्तजार करना पड़ता है जैसा कि मैंने एक टेलीफोन बुक किया तो ३ घंटे बाद मुझे मालूम हुम्रा कि लाइन खराब है। तो ऐसा क्यों किया जाता है ? बिजनेस एलीमेंट्स को प्रायरिटी क्यों दी जाती है ?