

foodgrains in the country in view of the downward price trend on the arrival of fresh crop in the market;

(b) the price structure determined for various commodities of foodgrains in different States and the percentage of profit margin allowed over the investment in agricultural production; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to compensate the possible loss to farmers as a result of the prices of foodgrains going down inspite of Government's efforts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a). As a guarantee to the producer of a fair return on his produce, minimum support prices were announced before the sowing of the crop started. The State Governments are now procuring foodgrains at the procurement prices which are much above the level of support prices. When some reports of fall in the price came to the notice of the Government, the State Governments and the Food Corporation of India have been asked to ensure purchase of all quantities that may be offered at the procurement prices fixed by the Government.

(b) A statement showing the procurement prices of Kharif foodgrains for the Crop Year 1967-68 is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7063/67.] In determining the procurement prices, the element of incentive to the producer has been taken into account. However, in the context of the limited data on cost of cultivation, varieties of holdings etc., it is not possible to indicate the percentage of profit margin over its investment in agricultural production.

(c) In view of the measures enumerated in the reply to part (a) of the Question, this contingency will not arise.

SUGARCANE CULTIVATION

*776. SHRI M. SUDARSANAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimate of sugarcane crop during the next crop season;

(b) whether this is due to increased yield or increased acreage; and

(c) the steps which have been taken to produce sugarcane with high sucrose content ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Only preliminary estimates of area under sugarcane during 1967-68 have become available so far. There has been a decline of 15 per cent in area under the crop due mainly to unfavourable weather conditions at the time of sowing and shifting of acreage from sugarcane to foodgrains.

(c) Varieties suitable for different soils and climatic conditions have been bred and released by the Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. Researches to evolve better and improved varieties are continuing.

खुले बाजार में चीनी की बिक्री

*777. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने चीनी पर से नियंत्रण हटा कर उसको खुले बाजार में बेचने की अनुमति दिए जाने के बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार की नीति का विरोध किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं, जिन्होंने इसका विरोध किया है; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अन्नासाहिब शिन्डे) : (क) और (ख).

अधिकांश राज्य सरकारें चीनी से पूर्ण नियन्त्रण उठाने के पक्ष में थीं।

(ग) घरेलू खपत के लिये नियन्त्रित मूल्य पर कुछ चीनी की सप्लाई सुनिश्चित करने और चीनी कारखानों को गन्ने का अपेक्षाकृत अधिक मूल्य देने योग्य बनाने के लिये सरकार ने आंशिक विनियन्त्रण करने के पक्ष में निर्णय किया।

CONFISCATION OF FOODGRAINS SENT TO WEST BENGAL FROM HARYANA

*778. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 34 on the 14th November, 1967 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the transportation of foodgrains from Haryana to West Bengal was in accordance with the orders of the Haryana Government and there was no violation of law;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the action of the Central Government in not permitting the release of foodgrains to the merchants in West Bengal and thereafter in ordering confiscation was not justified; and

(c) whether Government have received any representations in this regard from the Haryana Government and from the merchants and if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. The movement of maize, except under valid permits, from Haryana has been banned by a Central order under the Essential Commodities Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No representation has been received from the Government of Haryana. Some representations were however received from the merchants.

The cases in connection with the movement of coarse grains from Haryana to West Bengal are under investigation. Some Writ Petitions are also pending in the High Court of Delhi.

RETRENCHMENT IN REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

*779. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1253 on the 21st November, 1967 and state :

(a) whether the staff which was declared surplus in the Settlement Organisation of his Ministry would be given the benefit of their past service towards seniority for promotion/confirmation in their new Department; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the general principles for determining seniority applicable in such cases, the seniority of candidates transferred from one Department or office is reckoned from the date of their joining the new Department or office.

CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE STORES

*780. SHRI M. L. SONDHİ : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised the consumers' Co-operative Stores to approach the wholesale businessmen for obtaining essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the change in the policy with regard to arranging the supplies for the Co-operative stores ?