

COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has been requested to arrange for adequate credit for the Sugar Industry during the current season. The figure mentioned in the news-item is, however, an over-estimate.

(b) According to the All-India First Estimate of sugarcane, the area under this crop during 1970-71 is about 1.5 per cent less compared to the Corresponding estimate for 1969-70. It is expected that the needs of internal consumption and exports during the year will balance the production of sugar during the current season and there will be no addition to the carry-over stocks.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The implication of this part of the Question is not clear.

Damage to Cotton Crop of Maharashtra due to Boll-Worm, Red-Worm and Seliolithic Diseases

*809. **SHRI K. G. DESHMUKH** : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a serious attack of Boll-worm, Red-worm and Seliolithic diseases on the crop of cotton in Maharashtra recently ;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra has made a representation to the Central Government to declare "Epidemic" on cotton crop and take necessary remedial measures to check these terrible diseases ; and

(c) if so, what measures Government have taken or propose to take to save the cotton crop from the clutches of diseases in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra sent a report to the Government of India about the attack of Heliiothis (and not Seliolithic) on cotton in two Taluks of Amraoti District of Maharashtra.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra wanted that the affected areas may be surveyed by the Central team and subsidy on pesticides may be sanctioned to them under the Calamities Relief Fund.

(c) 30 villages in Dhariapur Tulak (30,000 acres) and 13 villages in Achalpur taluk (10,000 acres) have already been declared as 'epidemic' affected areas by the State Government under the Pest Control Act so as to take adequate plant protection measures to save the new flush of cotton crop in this tract. Owing to continuous heavy rains, plant production measures could not be taken by the State Government till the end of September, 1970. 9,000 acres in a compact block have been aerially sprayed with endrin in Dhariapur Taluk in November last and in other areas the crop has been treated with endrin/sevin by ground operations. The Zilla Parishad has already selected 40,000 acres of land in Achalpur and Dhariapur Taluks for providing intensive plant protections measures. The State Government have further decided to spray the cotton crop with endrin/carbarayl at intervals of about 7 days for combating this attack.

As desired by the State Government, a Central Team surveyed the affected areas in Achalpur and Dhariapur Talukas. the Central Team did not recommend sanction of assistance from the Calamities Relief Fund, as the cotton plucking was over in most of the areas and there was no prospect of new flush of cotton from the present crop.

Internal and Export Price of Sugarcane

*810. **SHRIMATI ILA PAL-CHOUHDURI** : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to rumours current in Delhi and other cities that while the export price of sugar fixed by the Government of India average; about 0.50 paise per kg., the internal retail price has been fixed at Rs. 1.78 paise per kg. which comes to about three and a half times the export price ;

(b) if so, the exact position as regards the export price of sugar per kg. ; and

(c) the reason for fixing the internal retail price at three and a half times more than the export price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). There is no relationship between the export price and the internal price of sugar. The international sugar prices are governed by the demand and supply position in the world sugar market and they are generally lower than our internal sugar prices. Therefore, India, along with most of the exporting countries of the world have to export sugar at a loss and these are subsidised in one way or the other. The average f.o.b.s. realisation from the sugar exports in 1970 is estimated at about Rs. 800 per tonne or 80 paise per kg. Under the present policy of partial decontrol, for internal consumption, a part of the production is requisitioned at fixed prices mainly for distribution to domestic consumers and a part thereof is released to the factories for sale in the open market subject to regulated releases by Government. The prices of levy sugar are fixed on the basis of schedules and zones recommended by the Tariff Commission. The price of free sugar is not *fixed* by Government. The average levy price per Kg. exclusive of excise duty is *about* Rs. 1.25 ex-factory. The retail prices vary from area to area due to various factors.

Manufacture of Plastic Bags for Storing Grains and Fertilisers and its Effect on Jute Industry

4974. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India has suggested the manufacture of large-size plastic bags to replace the conventional gunny bags for storing grains, fertiliser and other goods ;

(b) if so, the reasons why Government opposed a large public sector undertaking for the manufacture of plastic bags ; and

(c) the extent to which the jute industry would be affected when the State Govern-

ments of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh start manufacturing plastic bags ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is felt that the jute industry would not be affected by manufacture of plastic bags.

Strike Notice by ONGC Workers

4975. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Labour Union controlling Oil and Natural Gas Commission workers have served a notice to struck work ;

(b) if so, their demands ;

(c) the number of unions of the employees of Oil and Natural Gas Commission in all the units and how many of them are recognised ; and

(d) the reaction of Government to the notice served ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Payment of adequate Bonus to be settled at a joint meeting with the Unions.

(c) There are 24 unions of which 4 Unions are recognised.

(d) The dispute regarding Bonus has been referred by the Central Government to the National Industrial Tribunal at Delhi for adjudication.

Directors and Assistant Directors of Delhi T.V. Station

4976. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND