

possible for me to make any commitment, but his suggestion will be taken into account.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of cities in our country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Like Allahabad.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Today nothing on Allahabad. Sir, there are a large number of cities in our country on the border area which are picking up TV transmission from neighbouring countries, like Pakistan and Bangladesh, primarily because their transmissions are very powerful. What is our country doing to increase the transmission power especially of those cities that are on the border so that neighbouring countries can also be able to enjoy our programmes ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : We are fully aware of this requirement and the Seventh Plan is proposed to give priority to border and strategic areas.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I will put a very sharp question. What are the objective criteria for locating TV stations ? Number two, if there are any guidelines how is it that Buxar which is one of the important centres of our ancient civilisation where the Central Ministry of Tourism has started a 'Sound and Light' programme on Ramayana epic, where lakhs of pilgrims flock, which is actually also a seat of Bhojpuri language, has been left out ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I don't know whether it is his constituency. The criteria so far applied was firstly the population. It is because we wanted to reach the maximum number of viewers. Now in the Seventh Plan our attempt is this. There are many other factors which have to be taken into account, this is, strategic area, then, tribal area, and then, areas where the coverage is very much less when compared with the national average.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : What about Buxar ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I don't know the size of the 7th Plan for my Ministry. Therefore I said once it is known then we will decide on how much can be allotted.

MR. SPEAKER : What about my request ?

Rise in Sugar Price

*85. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI+ :**
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of sugar are soaring high in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) There has been some increase in the prices of sugar in the open market since beginning of June, 1985.

(b) The rise in sugar prices is mainly due to limited availability of indigenous sugar as a result of significantly lower sugar production in 1983-84 and 1984-85 as compared to 1982-83 and 1981-82 sugar year and substantial increase in internal consumption from 1981-82 season onwards.

(c) The steps taken include—

(i) the decision to import 10 lakh tonnes of sugar and arrange its distribution through State Government agencies and sale to licensed dealers by auction/tender through the Food Corporation of India;

(ii) advice to State Government to ensure strict enforcement of statutory provisions relating to stock holding limits and time limit for turn-over of stocks; and

(iii) adequate releases of freesale and levy sugar for internal consumption.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : The Minister in his reply said that there has been only some increase. We are coming from our respective States and we know the position. In Delhi and also in various places all over the country sugar prices have gone up to Rs. 8 per kilo.

AN HON. MEMBER : Rs. 8-40 per kilo.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : So you can see the anxiety of the hon. Members on this question. (*Interruptions*). I am not challenging but I am only touching the subject. He is our Minister. Therefore we cannot say that the price rise is very small. I hope that the hon. Minister has realised it. It is true that production of sugar was 8.4 million tonnes in 1980-81 and it come down to 5.9 million tonnes in 1984-85. Knowing fully well that the opening stock of suger this year was 24 lakh tonnes and the production this year was 61 lakh tonnes and the imported sugar which the hon. Minister has announced will be 10 lakh tonnes—adding all these together, the availability of suger with the Government comes to 95 lakh tonnes. Therefore, this much of quantity of sugar is available with the Government. The hon. Minister also has given such a strong warning to the traders and the industry that unless they bring down the prices severe action would be taken against them. I do not know whether the industry and trede could feel the strength of this warning or they could not feel it at all. We would like to know from the hon. Minister in categorical terms whether all this warning worked on the traders knowing fully well the nature of traders in our country, and if so, can he say that in 15 days the price of sugar will come down because the imported sugar has also come in the market ? Will it come down to its original level which was prevailing between the months of January and February ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I agree that there has been rise in the price of suger. But it must also be appreciated that as things stand, we can get some consolation from the fact that they could even go much higher if the Government had not taken the steps that I have mentioned. Import of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has helped us, it will help us further, and this 10 lakh tonnes of sugar which I mentioned and which is being imported during this year has not yet reached. About three lakh thnnes of it has come, part of which is being unloaded at present. Last month we tried to supply more sugar to the market, but things did not immediately pick up. For instance, our auction system of 50,000 tonnes of sugar per month through the FCI, so that the trade channel also keeps running. That did not take off properly. This month it has improved. 1,25,000 tonnes

of imported suger is being distributed every month through the States. That can be supplied to bulk consumers so that pressure on the market is reduced. But you must have seen it yourself, Sir, that in spite of our publicity in papers, even the bulk consumers here in Delhi are not taking advantage of it. You see, in the Parliament House itself the catering agencies are using indigenou sugar which is much higher, whereas our sugar is being supplied even in the Parliament House itself. If you can give us some place, we can open another counter, but already in the Parliament House...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We are interested in outsiders, not only M.Ps.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : If you don't listen to what I am saying..... (*Interruptions*). I am only giving an example of how things stand. I will come to even open market now. In Parliament itself they are not taking advantage of it. Hon. Members, how many of you know that sugar is being sold at Rs. 5.70 in the Parliament House Annexe ? And if you, Members, do not know, how can you educate the consumers in your constituencies ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : There is no question of educating people. What is this, Sir ? (*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not foreigners.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you allow us to bring our consumers from the constituencies to the Parliament House to purchase sugar ?

(*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I am talking of the people in general, the consumers. I would like to inform hon. Members that mobile vans of the Super Bazar are visiting every day at fixed times.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : When I am informing you do not want to be informed. Why do you say 'No, no' What is the 'No, no ?' I can even give you the location and timings. 200 locations are being visited in Delhi every day by the mobile van.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Apart from Delhi, what about other parts of the country ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Apart from that, there are retail outlets of the Civil Supplies Corporation of Delhi. Hundreds of Super Bazar outlets are also there. I am talking about Delhi and also outside. We are distributing 1,25,000 tonnes of sugar every month to the States. Unfortunately, last month, the States could not gear up their machinery to lift the sugar.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Why ?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting, you listen to him...

[*English*]

Let him finish.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Are you going to listen or not ?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You first listen, questions are being answered. Why are you interrupting ?

[*English*]

Let us see what happens.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is right. He must misguide the House in an uninterrupted manner.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why don't you issue warnings ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : My problem is, I can issue warnings to them. But my warnings are implemented by the State Governments. My warning are enforced by the State Governments. I am trying to persuade them. I am trying to pressurise the State Governments and things have improved a lot. Bulk consumers are being supplied sugar.

Sir, another thing that you would notice that whenever somebody talks about prices of sugar, they always talk of prices of indigenous sugar. They do not pay any attention to what the Government is doing to supply imported sugar.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Why don't you give us more price for sugarcane ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : For sugarcane, you are getting enough price. Are we discussing the sugar shortage, at present, or sugar policy for future ?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going to help. Neither you will get an answer nor will he get a reply to his question. You can table another question, if you want. Making noise will not help.

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, a strange phenomenon is now being noticed in the country today. If you permit me to say, whereas everything imported is liked by people in general, imported sugar is not liked by them. Everything foreign is good but imported foreign sugar is not good. Whereas the fact remains that this sugar is purer; this is more sweet than indigenous sugar.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No. It can't be.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Any hon. Member who is saying 'No' to this, who does not accept this fact, is trying to help the industrial lobby, is trying to help the sugar magnate and traders...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Minister, I will invite you for dinner on two consecutive days. One day, I will serve you preparations made of imported sugar and another day, I will serve you preparations made of indigenous sugar. You will yourself find out which is better.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Sahib, along with him please invite me also...

[*English*]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, it is a very sensitive matter. The Minister cannot charge the Members like this. Members are concerned about the rise in the price of sugar. Therefore, I propose that you may

[Prof. K. K. Tewary]

allow half-an-hour discussion. We will disprove his charges. You allow half-an-hour discussion on this. Nobody is interested in helping industrial lobby.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have to ask a question, it is very urgent...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Should we convert this into Half-An-Hour Discussion ?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The hon. Minister is expected to enlighten the House, not entertain the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Entertainments is also a treat !

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We shall have half-an-hour discussion.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : You ask the hon. Minister to withdraw the baseless charge that some of the Members are bent on helping the industrial lobby. This is an insult to all Members.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. This is not going to help. I have seen your anxiety for sweet; it is your intense desire; we shall fulfill it and have a full discussion; there is nothing to worry.

[*English*]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : The charge that the hon. Minister has levelled, that some of the Members are helping the industrial lobby should be withdrawn. No motives so should be imputed. We are free to ask questions. We have got this freedom. You should direct the hon. Minister to withdraw this charge. (*Interruptions*)

You must do something. We are not supporting it. Instead of blaming the Members, the Government is to blame themselves for their exploiting the consumer.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not do anything which may create bitterness among ourselves.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : How can I do it when you do not listen to me ? please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have to ask a question.

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We are up against certain forces which are trying to exploit the market.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : My question is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : Even Shri Panigrahi has not put his question yet.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Panigrahi, now you may convert it in Half-an-Hour Discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you allow anybody to speak or not. What is the use of all this ?

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What are you doing ? What are you meant for ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Let us proceed to the next question. The hon. Minister should withdraw these remarks.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to put a specific question to Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not talk among yourselves.

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I have not yet put my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : We are very sorry that the hon. Minister has used certain expression which the entire House will not like and we have also seen that they are not liked. Now I would just like to know from the hon. Minister...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAŃ : He is creating bitterness through sugar.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : would like to know from the hon. Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. You are an elderly person; please, you sit down.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : You are not protecting our rights.

MR. SPEAKER : What else am I doing? You sit down, please; it does not behave you to be angry.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I want to make it clear that there is nothing like imputation of motive to any hon. Member. What I wanted to say was...

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member put his question.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : The Minister has to prove it...

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right now. He does not mean any imputation of motive to anybody.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : The House would have been very glad if, instead of labouring hard to educate the hon. Members, the hon. Minister had at least one per cent educated and informed the traders to bring down the sugar prices; the

House would have been grateful to him for that. I want to know this from the hon. Minister. The monthly quota of free sale sugar has been increased to 3.75 lakh tonnes and also levy sugar has been increased to 3.13 lakh tonnes. How is it that, even after increased release of nearly 7 lakh tonnes of sugar every month to the market, the prices are not being brought down? Why are the traders not listening to his warning? Has he no control over them?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The traders have control over the Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : For the coming month, 25,000 tonnes more of sugar have been given for the free market—for total availability. For the month of August, having in view the festival season, 50,000 tonnes more have been allotted for distribution through levy system at the rate of Rs. 4.40—even this imported sugar like the indigenous sugar, so that the consumers come to know what is the quality of the imported sugar and to take care of the rumours that are being spread by the traders. The main reason is that the trade channel dried up because all the free sale quota of the mills was exhausted and levy sugar quota which was government's quota has been diverted to factories on loan so that the trade channel also keeps working. But we are trying to augment the supply by giving 1,25,000 tonnes of sugar to the States. The hon. Members will be interested to know that, in spite of our best efforts, the States could not deal with this sudden situation. Now they have taken steps. I might give the figures for Andhra Pradesh. 7,519 tonnes were allocated for distribution to consumers through retail shops, through cooperatives, at a rate below Rs. 6; they could also allot it on permits to bulk consumers. Out of these 7,519 tonnes allocated for the month of July, only 3,941 tonnes have been lifted by the State so far.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why?

(*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : That can be asked from the State Government in the Assembly. I am trying to ask them and I

[Rao Birendra Singh]

will let you know. This is for the information of the hon. Members belonging to Telugu Desam. Out of 4,511 tonnes allocated to the State for distribution at below Rs. 6 in the month of June, only 360 tonnes were lifted by them. These are the things which the hon. Members should know. Let me give some other figures also. Take Kerala. Last month 3,285 tonnes were allotted, but only 30 tonnes were lifted by the State. For June, 10,046 tonnes have been distributed to UP at below Rs. 6 price but only 974 tonnes have been lifted. Things have improved this month in July. 16,747 tonnes have been allotted for distribution at below Rs. 6 price to UP and they have been able to lift 8900 tonnes...

(Interruptions)

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : What is the reason ? Let him enlighten.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Similarly, in Bihar... (Interruptions) Delhi is doing much better. Some States are doing better and things are improving. So we may hope that the prices will come down.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : You please give the figure for all the 12 months.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I will appeal to the hon. Members on this sensitive issue that they have to support the Government. They have also to pressurise the State Governments wherever they can...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We can have an half-an-hour discussion on this.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : They have got to meet the rumours which the traders and sugar trade are spreading that this sugar is not good, that this is not sweet and we are trying our best to inform the consumers that sugar is available at Rs. 5.70 per kg in Delhi through hundreds of retail outlets. Why should they go in for indigenous sugar for Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 ? This is the problem which has to be tackled.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS-

[Translation]

Storage Facilities in Punjab and Other States

*86. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of wheat in Punjab is much more this year as compared to that in previous years as a result of which wheat is lying in the open as all the godowns are full;

(b) if so, the arrangements made by Government to protect this wheat from rain, and if no arrangement has been made, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to create more storage capacity in Punjab and other States in the event of more production in future ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). The production of wheat in Punjab this year is estimated at about 102 lakh tonnes which is the highest so far.

The procured wheat has been stored in covered godowns to the extent possible. The balance wheat stock held in open storage is also properly covered.

During 1985-86, the Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations taken together are expected to construct additional covered storage capacity of 22.84 lakh tonnes for foodgrains, of which it is estimated that about 3.52 lakh tonnes would be in Punjab. The Food Corporation of India is also making efforts to hire additional capacity from other sources.

[English]

Beneficiaries Living in Tribal and Desert Prone Areas getting Subsidy under I. R. D. P.

*87 SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :