

(b) Yes, Sir. The retail issue price of levy sugar for distribution through Public Distribution System has been varying from 3.75 per kg. to Rs. 9.05 per kg. as indicated below :

Date From which effective	Retail Issue Price Sugar for P.D.S. (Rs. per Kg.)
1-12-1982	3.75
1-2-1984	4.00
1-4-1985	4.40
1-12-1985	4.80
15-12-1986	4.85
1-1-1988	5.10
1-1-1989	5.25
24-7-1991	6.10
21-1-1992	6.90
17-2-1993	8.30
1-2-1994	9.05

(c) Molasses and press mud are by-products of the Sugar Industry. While Molasses is used as raw material for the manufacturer of alcohol, Press mud is used as manure and is usually given to the farmers free of cost by most of the factories. As per the information received from 171 sugar factories, the average realisation of Molasses during the period 1-10-1994 to 31-7-1995 was in the range of Rs. 47.10 to Rs. 244.27 per quintal.

(d) The Government does not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills. The profitability or otherwise of sugar mills depends upon a variety of factors such as size, age and condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial competence etc.

EXPORT OF RICE

1415. **Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde** : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there are no takers for Indian Rice abroad despite the low price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) to (c)

During the period April-August, 1995 a total quantity of 14,56,276 Metric Tonnes of rice (Basmati and non-Basmati) valued at Rs. 1186.74 crores has been exported.

FUNDS FOR FRUITS PLANTATION

1416. **Shri Sudhir Sawant** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has given priority to Horticulture during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details of assistance made available to Maharashtra for fruit Plantation;

(c) whether priority is given to Alphonso Mango in Konkan;

(d) if so, the details of programmes being implemented in this regard;

(e) whether any research is being conducted in Deogad Alphonso; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing a scheme on 'Integrated Development of Fruits' under which assistance is given to Maharashtra for establishment of fruit nurseries, area expansion and improving productivity of fruit crops, training and demonstration of improved technology etc. with an outlay of Rs. 119.83 lakhs during 1995-96. Besides Government of Maharashtra under Employment Guarantee Scheme linked horticulture development programme is providing assistance wherein average area covered under various fruit crops each year is 98,400 ha. which includes Alphonso Mango in Konkan area also.

(e) to (f) The All India Coordinated Research Project Centre on Sub-Tropical Fruits located at Vengurla in Konkan Region of Maharashtra is conducting researches different aspects of Alphonso Mango. The centre has already standardised propagation technique and induction of flowering by Paclobtrazol. The centre has also released seedless mango known as Sindhu.

FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION

1417. **Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy** :
Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi :

Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government feel that Rabi production for 1995-96 fixed at 84.5 tons is likely to exceed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;