

Conditional offer by Sugar Industry to Peg Retail Prices of Sugar

148. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry has made a conditional offer to the Government to peg the retail price at around Rs. 5.25 a kg. in last March;

(b) if so, what were the conditions attached and what was the Government's stand on this offer; and

(c) what other steps have been taken to reduce the free market prices of sugar during last 4 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The representatives of the sugar industry who were invited by Union Minister of Agriculture on 31st March, 1980 to review the rising trend in sugar prices and find out ways and means to stabilise prices at reasonable level, agreed to voluntarily limit the ceiling of ex-factory price of free-sale sugar (without excise duty) to the level of Rs. 430 per quintal. While making this offer, they put the condition that the quantum of excise duty should be reduced to the level prevalent on 31st March, 1980 and also urged for reduction in the bank margin on levy sugar from 25 per cent to 5 per cent.

The proposal of the industry was considered in detail in the Conference of State Food Ministers and Advisers to the Governors held on 24-4-1980 where the consensus of the State Governments was that the offer made by the sugar industry regarding voluntary reduction in the ex-factory price of free-sale sugar was not workable in its present form as some of the States were deficit while others were surplus and there could be no assured movement of sugar to the deficit States without statutory control.

(c) Government have taken a series of measures to bring down the prices of sugar in the free-market. These are:—

(i) Reduction in the stock holding limits of recognised dealers;

(ii) Intensification of de-hoarding operations;

(iii) Restrictions on sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler where the transaction is not accompanied by physical delivery of sugar;

(iv) Turn-over of stocks by recognised dealers within 10 days period;

(v) Monitoring of information relating to sale and despatches of sugar;

(vi) Release of additional quotas of free-sale sugar for May and June; and

(vii) Decision to import 2 lakh tonnes of sugar.

Implementation of Land Reforms

149. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of land reforms Law like Tenancy (Amendment), Act and Land Ceiling Act (Amendment) was stopped by the previous Government in Gujarat;

(b) the position at present; and

(c) steps been taken to start again implementing these laws including Minimum Wages Act for agrarian labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The previous Government of Gujarat had appointed a State Land Commission in November, 1977 to examine the totality of land reform measures in the State and suggest necessary changes in the light of the

special conditions prevailing in Gujarat. The State Government kept in abeyance the implementation of section 32(1-B) of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 (which dealt with restoration of possession of land to tenants illegally ejected between 15-6-1955 and the coming into force of the Amending Act 5 of 1973) and the acquisition and distribution of surplus land under the Gujarat Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings Act, 1960. The Government of India had suggested that holding up the implementation of the ceiling law in anticipation of changes was not proper, but the suggestion was not accepted by the State Govt. During the President's Rule, however, steps have been taken to implement land reform laws in the State under a time bound programme on a priority basis and orders have been issued to take over and distribute the lands already declared surplus.

(c) Additional revenue staff has been appointed to expedite the implementation of land reform laws and a special drive launched to detect eviction of allottees from ceiling surplus lands in order to restore these lands to them. The Gujarat Government have also take steps for fixing minimum wages for agrarian labour and is implementing the Minimum Wages Act.

देश में सूखे से प्रभावित राज्यों को खाद्यान्न की सप्लाई

150. श्री छीतुभाई गामितः क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में सूखे से प्रभावित राज्यों को गत छः महीनों में कितना खाद्यान्न सप्लाई किया गया तथा ढुलाई के साधन क्या थे ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने अकाल ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में रोजगार के अवसर जुटाने हेतु सहायता दी है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर. बी. स्वामीनाथन): (क) सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों को गत छः महीनों में काम के लिए अनाज कार्य-क्रमों आदि सहित के लिए केन्द्रीय पूल से सप्लाई किए गए खाद्यान्नों को बताने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न है। अनाज की प्रतिपूर्ति अधिकांशतः रेल द्वारा की गई है।

(ख) और (ग). वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान, जिन केन्द्रीय दलों ने आन्ध्र प्रदेश, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश के सूखाग्रस्त राज्यों का दौरा किया था, उनके द्वारा प्रस्तुत की गई रिपोर्टों के आधार पर केन्द्रीय सहायता के प्रयोजन हेतु 177.37 करोड़ रुपये के खर्च की कूल सीमा स्वीकृत की गई है, जिसमें सिंचाई, बनरोपण, भू-संरक्षण, सड़क निर्माण आदि की रोजगार पैदा करने वाली योजनाओं के लिए 79.59 करोड़ रुपये की व्यवस्था शामिल है। जिसका ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है।

राज्य

स्वीकृत खर्च की कुल सीमा

रोगभार पैदा करना कुल

आन्ध्र प्रदेश	19.64	12.00
बिहार	24.82	4.50
मध्य प्रदेश	47.90	30.50
उड़ीसा	17.39	4.06
राजस्थान	20.10	9.50
उत्तर प्रदेश	47.52	19.03
जोड़	177.37	7959