

(a) whether Government proposed to set up a joint task force to study the various beneficial properties of *Amaranthus*;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to grow this plant on large scale in view of its high nutritious value; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIS. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sugar Mills

266. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI
THAKORE;
SHRI SANTHOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
VEERAPPA:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences proposed to be granted for setting up of additional sugar mills during the Eighth Five year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the additional quantity of sugar expected to be produced thereby;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the screening process of applications received from applicants of all the sugar-producing States;

(d) if so, whether the screening process of the applications has been completed;

(e) if not, the names of the States in respect of which the screening process is yet to take place; and

(f) the time by which the screening process of all the applications is likely to be completed and licences issued to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a): The letters of Intent for setting up of new sugar factories are issued by the Ministry of Industry, keeping in view the recommendations of the Screening Committee/Administrative Ministry/Licensing Committee, on the basis of financial, and technical viability of the project and the Licensing policy Guidelines. Therefore, the exact number of new sugar mills to be licensed during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-Wise, would only be known after the scrutiny of all the applications as per the aforesaid procedure.

(b) The additional quantity of sugar expected to be produced thereby would depend upon the number of new licences issued and implemented.

(c) to (e): The applications for setting up of new sugar factories of all the States, except Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, have been scrutinised by the Screening Committee.

(f): After the screening process is complete, the recommendations of the Screening Committee/Administrative Ministry will be considered by the Licensing Committee after which letters of intent/licences will be issued by the Ministry of Industry to the applicants. It is not possible at present to specify any time frame in this regard.