

(c) what action Government have taken over the representations made by the Khandasari Manufacturing Associations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA TAP SINGH) (a) The rate of duty on khandasari sugar is 17½ *ad valorem*. This rate is substantially lower than the duty levied on free sale sugar which was 40 per cent upto 15-11-77 and 27½ per cent since 16-11-77

The majority of khandasari producers are assessed under the compounded levy system which is not related to the quantity of khandasari produced but to the size of the centrifugal used in the process of manufacturing. The incidence of duty under this system is substantially lower than the *ad valorem* rate or that on free-sale sugar

(b) and (c) Unlike vacuum pan sugar factories the Central Government have left the khandasari industry to function without any controls. It is not subjected to levy like vacuum pan sugar and hence is able to sell its entire produce in the open market at whatever rates the forces of supply and demand dictate. Government is fully aware of the agro base and employment potential of khandasari industry as compared to the vacuum pan sugar industry. Representations for reduction of the weekly rates under the compounded Levy Scheme are being examined in depth, for decision in the Ministry of Finance.

Representations on the Enhancement of the rate of Interest of House Building Loans

1114 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for enhancing the rate of interest on the House Build-

ing advances to the Government Servants,

(b) whether representations have been made to the Government to the effect that this enhancement of interest has adversely affected the Government employees in general and house building activity in particular, and

(c) whether Government propose to give relief to the Government employees in this regard and restore the *status quo ante*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAM KINKER) (a) The rate of interest was enhanced on a slab rate basis only for the amount of loan in excess of Rs 25 000. This was done to discourage employees in the higher income group from availing of low interest loan for building high cost houses.

(b) No such representations have been received in this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Reaction of Public to Removal of Zonal Restrictions on Movement of Food-grains

1115 SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have removed all Zonal restrictions on the movement of foodgrains and rice,

(b) if so what is the reaction of the public thereon, and

(c) what steps Government have taken on the representations made by the public regarding the above said matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA TAP SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir