

extent of 50 per cent of the established loss of excise revenue resulting from the introduction of prohibition in each year, commencing from 1978-79, treating the actual excise revenue of 1977-78 as the base. The compensation will be paid upto 1983-84.

Loss by Sugar Factories

1084. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many sugar factories in the country have incurred cash loss in the years 1976-77, 1977-78; and

(b) what Government propose to do in case there is a continued cash loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Government do not have information regarding cash loss incurred by individual sugar factories. However, the shortfall in realisation, for the industry as a whole, on all India basis, has been estimated at Rs. 43 crores for 1976-77. The position regarding 1977-78 will be known only after the entire season's production is sold.

(b) While it is not possible for Government to go into the difficulties of individual factories, Government undertake a review of the sugar policy from time to time so as to ensure a fair price to the sugar producers and at the same time to protect the interests of the sugarcane growers and consumers of sugar.

Creation of Posts in National Seeds Corporation

1085. SHRI MAHI LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7745 dated 24th April, 1978 regarding creation of posts in National Seeds Corporation and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary details are being furnished separately in fulfilment of the assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 7745 of 24th April, 1978.

(c) Not applicable.

Assessment of loss due to flood in Assam

1086. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of loss during the month of June, 1978 due to floods in the country, particularly in Assam; and

(b) steps taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The assessment of loss exclusively for the month of June, 1978 is not available. A preliminary assessment of the flood damage during this monsoon season as reported by the State Govts./Union Territories indicates that an area of 4.42 lakh ha. and a population of 6.59 lakh have been affected. Crops over an area of 1.54 lakhs and 6,771 houses have been damaged. Sixty-three human lives and 50 head of cattle were lost. The total damage to crops, houses, and public utilities in the country as a whole has been estimated at Rs. 141.19 lakhs.

The Govt. of Assam have reported that the flood damage upto 28th June this year has affected an area of 1.54 lakh ha. and a population of 2 lakhs in 440 villages in the Brahmaputra valley. Jute and paddy crop over an area of about 16,000 ha. were also damaged. Two human lives and 5 head of cattle were lost.