

interests of actual fishing operation in view of the failure of the Marine Products export Development Authority to protect them;

(b) whether Government are aware of possible collusion by MPEDA and marine food processors to keep marine products prices down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of any such collusion between the MPEDA and the marine food processors.

Banning of Sale of Sugar in open market

2851. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration a proposal for total banning of "Sugar" selling in the open market other than fair price shops till the situation improves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): No, Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. The existing policy is of partial control on sugar with dual pricing system under which 65 per cent of the total production of the factories is being procured as levy at controlled prices for distribution through the public distribution system at a uniform retail price and the remaining 35 per cent of the production is being allowed to be sold in the open market.

S.T.D. Facilities from Delhi and Madras

2852. **SHRI ERA ANBARASU:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to provide STD telephone facilities from Delhi to

Mahabalipuram in Chingleput District, Tamil Nadu and from Mahabalipuram to Madras;

(b) if so, when the same will be implemented; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider to provide such facilities to Mahabalipuram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No such proposal at present

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, at a later stage.

Decline in sugar production and closure of Sugar Factories

2853. **SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's current sugar production had fallen as against last two years, thereby reducing availability and bringing about sharp rise in prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was a fall in sugarcane supply to the factories as the cane was being diverted to gur and khandsari units;

(c) whether it is a fact that many sugar factories had closed down for want of sugarcane; and

(d) whether it was solely due to previous Government's wrong sugar policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The sugar production in the current 1980-81 season upto 22nd November is 2.55 lakh tonnes as against 1.77 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 season and 2.62 lakh tonnes in 1978-79 season. Thus, the sugar production in the current season so far is substantially higher than the production in 1979-80 and it is only slightly