

(b) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes. Some experiments have been conducted to de-hydrate the mangoes at Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore recently.

(b) Products like mango cereal flakes, mango powder (Amchur) and mango dried pulp (Ampapar) have been prepared successfully from raw mangoes and mango pulp. Commercial production of many of these products has already been taken up by some of the industrial concerns.

HIGH BREED VARIETIES OF FOOD CORPS AND OILSEED KHURASANI IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHITRA

8816. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that three food crops of Noagli and Warai and the important oilseed Khurasani are the main crops in the tribal areas of Nasik, Dhulia, Thana and Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether Government think that research to prepare high breed varieties of them is very necessary;

(c) whether Government have done any work in this regard in the past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the activities at present in hand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of Maharashtra has done some work in the past for the selection of superior yielding varieties of the millets—*Nagli (Eleusine Coracana)* and *Warai (Panicum miliaceum)*. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research

(ICAR) has formulated during the Fourth Five Year Plan and put into operation, the All India Coordinated Millets Improvement Project at a total estimated cost of Rs. 60 lakhs, spread over the Fourth Plan period, for the improvement of bajri and lesser millets including *Nagli* and *Warai*. Under this project, a centre has been located at Vijapur in Maharashtra.

*Khorasani*, also known as *Khorasani ajwain (Hyoscymus niger)*, is a herb, the leaves of which are used as medicine and the seeds (which bear essential oil) as condiments. Research for the improvement of this plant has been taken up under the All-India scheme on the establishment of regional stations in medicinal and aromatic plants sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

SUGAR PRICES FIXED FOR MAHARASHTRA

8817. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE . Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed lower prices for sugar produced in the sugar factories in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the special reasons for this;

(c) whether Government propose to subsidise the loss due to these lower prices, both to the sugar factories and to the cane producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The ex-factory prices of levy sugar of sugar factories in Maharashtra, as in the rest of the country, have been fixed on the basis of the zones and cost schedules recommended by the Tariff Commission. The cost schedules were prepared by the Commission after taking into account the actual cost of production of selected representatives factories in each zone. The estimated average recovery and average duration of the crushing season of the factories in the respective zones was also taken into account in fixing the levy prices.

(c) Does not arise.