

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS SEVENTH REPORT

श्री हरि विष्णु कामत (होमगावाड) : सभापति महोदय, मैं छठी लोकसभा की याचिका समिति का सप्तम प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों संस्करण) आपकी अनुमति से सदन की सेवा में प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

FOURTH REPORT

SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM (Shahjahanpur): I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hind and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Delegation of Powers to General Managers, Organisation of Zonal Railways and Organisation of Railway Board's Office'.

PETITION RE. GRIEVANCES AND DEMANDS OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM PAKISTAN OCCUPIED AREAS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE

SHRI BALDEV SINGH JASROTIA (Jammu): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Bachan Singh Panchhi and others regarding grievances and demands of displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir State.

14.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. EXPORT OF SUGAR AND GUR

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Mr. Speaker, Hon'ble Members are aware that the production of sugarcane during 1977-78 reached a record level of over 180 million tonnes. Similarly, the production of sugar in the last season reached an unprecedented high level of about 65 lakh tonnes. As a result, the closing stocks

of sugar at the end of last season went up to about 33 lakh tonnes as compared to about 16 lakh tonnes at the end of 1976-77 season.

As regards the current year, the first estimate of sugarcane acreage for 1978-79 shows an increase of about 7 per cent over last year's level. Total production of sugar upto 15th November, 1978 was 1.78 lakh tonnes as compared to 1.25 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of last year. Thus, the current year also promises to be a bumper year for sugar production.

The policy of decontrol that has been implemented by the present Government resulted in a marked reduction in retail prices and has ensured free availability of sugar to consumers. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that sugarcane growers secure adequate prices for their produce both in the sugar factory areas and elsewhere. The Government have under consideration various measures for ensuring a fair return to the sugarcane growers and to ensure the viability of the sugar and khandasari factories and gur producers. Pending finalisation of these measures, Government have decided to immediately give all possible encouragement for the export of gur. Towards this end, Government have decided that exports of gur will be under Open General Licence and a cash compensatory support of Rs. 10/- per quintal will be given to all gur exports with immediate effect. This policy will be in force upto the end of the 1978-79 sugar season, i.e., upto 30th September, 1979.

The Government have also decided that exports of sugar during the 1979 quota-year should be effected up to our full quota under the International Sugar Agreement, namely, 6.5 lakh tonnes. Exports have hitherto been canalised through the State Trading Corporation (STC). Government have now decided that for 1979 quota year