

respect of rice is drought and inadequate rainfall conditions prevailing in many parts of the country during 1984 South-West monsoon season (June-September).

(d) Targets for the Seventh Plan have not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission.

Incentive for Sugar Production

*74. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have given incentive to the sugar mill owners for increased production of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether production of sugar was achieved as targeted in the Sixth Plan; and

(d) The actual production and targeted production in the Sixth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government announced an incentive scheme in December 1975, for new sugar factories as well as expansion projects established at high capital cost. The scheme envisaged two types of benefits to be given to eligible factories :-

(a) Price benefits arising out of grant of extra freesale sugar over 35%

(b) Excise duty concession by charging only levy sugar duty rates on the extra freesale sugar released.

The scheme became inoperative due to decontrol from 16.8.1978. After the re-introduction of dual pricing system from December 1979, a revised scheme was announced in November 1980 on the same pattern as the earlier scheme which is still continuing.

The claims of a number of factories have been finalised (104 cases out of 144) and extra freesale quotas of sugar have been allowed to those eligible under the scheme.

There are no specific targets for the production of sugar as such, which are fixed on a year to year basis. While finalising the Five Year Plans, an exercise was made to assess the requirements of sugar with reference to population and then plan for the creation of installed capacity for sugar production to meet this requirement. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, the following were the requirements and corresponding achievements in sugar production.

Sugar Year	Sugar requirements (Lakh tonnes)	Production (Lakh tonnes)
1980-81	62.60	51.48
1981-82	66.60	84.38
1982-83	69.70	82.32
1983-84	73.00	59.16
1984-85	76.40	39.82 Upto 27.2.85)

The production of sugar mainly depends on the production of sugarcane and its availability to the factories for crushing during the season. From the above, it will be seen that the production had far exceeded the sugar requirements of the country in the sugar years, 1981-82 and 1982-83. Due to adverse agroclimatic factors, the production had declined in the year, 1983-84. The production during the current year till the end of February 1985, was marginally higher than the corresponding period for 1983-84.

Assistance to Coconut Plantation in India

*75. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount required for rehabilitation of coconut plantation in Kerala ;

(b) the amount of assistance given by Centre to Kerala for rehabilitation of coconut plantation during each of the last three years ; and

(c) the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No comprehensive survey has been conducted to assess the amount required for rehabilitation of coconut Plantation in Kerala

(b) The amount of assistance given to Kerala Government by Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation and extension of coconut plantation for 1981-82, 1983-84 and 1984-85 are Rs 18.87 lakh, Rs 13.08 lakh and Rs. 14.14 lakh respectively. Besides, on account of floods in 1982-83 a ceiling of assistance of Rs. 6 lakh was sanctioned towards cost of seedlings for new planting in place of damaged crops including coconut. During 1983-84 drought an amount of Rs. 49 lakh as Central Government's share was provided through Coconut Development Board.

(c) During the last three years 85,000 hectares of coconut plantation were rejuvenated by removing disease affected and uneconomic palms and planting with quality seedlings.

Appointment of a Commission for Agricultural Pricing Policy

*76. **SHRI B.V. DESAI :**

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a commission to take a fresh look at the agricultural pricing policy ;

(b) whether the representatives of agricultural community recently met the Minister and pleaded for regulated agricultural markets and more for incentives to export agricultural products ;

(c) if so, by what time Government are likely to appoint such a commission ; and

(d) what will be its main objectives and functions ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) There is no such proposal. However, all factors are taken into

account by the Government in fixing the prices of agricultural commodities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

Lay-Off Retrenchment in Jute Industry in West Bengal

*77. **SHRI AMAL DATTA :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the jute industry in West Bengal is going for a massive lay-off and retrenchment ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to save the workers and employees from retrenchment ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) According to information received from the West Bengal Government, they have no information in the matter of the Jute Industry resorting to massive lay-off and retrenchment. No Jute Mill has applied for permission either to lay-off or retrench workers and no such permission has been given to any of them.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

ICAR's Findings on Bhopal Gas Leakage

*78. **SHRI PIYUSH TIRAKY :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to stated :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on effects of gas leakage ;