

Shri P. N. Selanki:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Ramachandra Veerappa:
Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a further cut in the supply of sugar to the States is likely to be effected shortly which would result in hardship to the consumers;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri D. Ering): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Fall in Sugar Production in 1966-67

*304. Shri K. N. Pandey:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri Rishwanath Roy:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri A. K. Kisku:
Shri S. N. Maiti:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Rane:
Shri Parthasarathy:
Shri E. D. Eddy:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:
Shri K. Pradhani:
Shri Y. A. Prasad:
Shri N. K. Sanghi:
Shri Bedabrata Barua:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri D. N. Patodia:
Shri C. C. Dotal:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of crystal sugar fell down

considerably during the 1966-67 season due to the conversion of cane into gur and khandasari on a large scale;

(b) if so, the total output in 1966-67; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to keep the production of sugar in line with the targets fixed for the Fourth Plan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri D. Ering): (a) Yes, Sir, to some extent. The other reason was the fall in production of sugarcane.

(b) It is estimated around 21.80 lakh tonnes.

(c) Additional sugar production capacity has been licenced and sugarcane development work will be intensified. Other measures like price and incentives for augmenting production in 1967-68 are also under consideration.

Scarcity of Sugarcane

*305. Shri V. Krishnamoorthi:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri K. M. Madhukar:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from mill-owners regarding the scarcity of sugarcane for manufacturing sugar; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to step up sugarcane production in the current year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri D. Ering): (a) Yes, Sir, during the current season 1966-67.

(b) Various matters like the review of sugarcane price, the position

of gur and khandsari and the grant of other incentives are under the active consideration of Government.

Early closure of Sugar Mills and Diversion of Sugarcane to Gur and Khandsari in U.P.

- *306. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri Beni Shanker Sharma:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
 Shri Sharda Nand:
 Shri Manibhai J. Patel:
 Shri Bhogendra Jha:
 Shri K. M. Madhukar:
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
 Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
 Shri Ranjit Singh:
 Shri N. S. Sharma:
 Shri Kam Singh Ayarwal:
 Shri Brij Bhushan Lal:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri George Fernandes:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
 Shri Rane:
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
 Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
 Shri P. Parthasarathy:
 Shri R. D. Reddy:
 Shri D. N. Patodia:
 Shri Mohamed Imam:
 Shri S. K. Tapuriah:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri R. Barua:
 Shri Ramachandra Veerappa:
 Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:
 Shri Abdul Ghani Dar:
 Shri Maharaj Singh
 Bharati:
 Shri J. B. Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 40,000 sugar workers in Uttar Pradesh were laid off before the crushing season actually ended for want of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the Sugar Mills against the diversion of sugarcane to the Gur and Khandsari industry;

(c) whether the low price of sugarcane is mainly responsible for the low production; and

(d) if so, whether and when prices of sugarcane are likely to be raised?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Information regarding number of sugar workers laid off is not available.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Low production of sugar was due to fall in area and production of sugarcane due to drought conditions at the time of sowings and during the period of growth, and diversion of cane to gur and khandsari on account of their high prices.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Closure of Sugar Mills

- *307. Shri George Fernandes:
 Shri Mrityunjay Prasad:
 Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri S. K. Tapuriah:
 Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
 Shri D. N. Patodia:
 Shri C. C. Desai:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills closed down in the recent months for want of sugarcane in the country;

(b) the total loss in the production of sugar and the value thereof; and

(c) the loss in wages sustained by the workers employed in those mills?