

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?