

Sugar : Under the present policy of partial control, the monthly allocation of levy sugar to most of the States/UTs is being made generally on a norm of ensuring 425 gms. per capita availability as per the population figures of 1991 census with effect from 1.1.1996. The present monthly levy sugar quota of Orissa on the above norm is 13456.0 MTs. In relaxation to the above norm a qty. of 1000.0 MTs. of levy sugar has been released to Orissa from Bargarh and Aska sugar Factories as additional levy sugar quota, in view of the recent super cyclone.

Edible oil: In so far as supply of imported edible oil through the Public Distribution System is concerned, the norms in this regard are fixed by the States/UTs. themselves. The State Government has been requested to indicate the quantity of imported edible oils that may be required for super cyclone victims.

Crisis in Oil Industry

†979. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:—

(a) whether oil industry of India is under deep crisis and is on the verge of closure:

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to streamline the oil industry of India, to make the country self-reliant in the field of oilseeds and to provide indigenous edible oil to the common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The overall capacity utilisation of the oil industry is hardly one third of the installed capacity.

(b) Some of the reasons for this unsatisfactory State of Affairs are:—

(i) Creation of capacity totally incommensurate with the availability of raw materials.

(ii) By and large obsolete technology.

(iii) Inefficiency of operation.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Stiff competition because of the liberalisation of economy.

(c) Some of the measures taken by the Government are:—

(i) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technology. Since then, all concerted efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds and edible oil in the country through the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). At present, OPP is under implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts. Under the Programme, financial assistance is being provided by way of subsidies on various critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, mini kits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology. The Programme is being funded on 75:25 share basis between the Central Government and the State Government. During the year 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 109.10 crores has been provided as Central share for implementation of the programme.

During the Ninth Plan, the new initiatives taken under the programme includes propagation of high yielding varieties of oilseeds, promotion of sprinkler irrigation, use of integrated nutrients and pest management and promoting the use of gypsum/pyrites as source of sulphur for increasing the production of oilseeds and edible oil in the country with higher outlay.

(ii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(iii) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(iv) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(v) Assistance for oil palm development.

(vi) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(vii) Identification of equipments of modernisation of processing units, custom duty concessions of imports of certain equipment.