

(b) the steps taken to supply the sugar demanded; and

(c) by when a final decision in the matter is expected?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh in June, 1996 requested for release of an additional free sale quota of 20,000 tonnes of sugar in respect of different units of Nizam Sugars Ltd., as a special case.

During the month of June, 1996, apart from the normal quota of 7,40,000 MTs of free sale sugar, an additional quota of 50,000M. Tonnes was released. In addition, the sugar factories were permitted to sell 30% more sugar over and above their quota. As such, it was decided that there was no need to grant further additional free sale quotas to any particular sugar factory.

Export of Sub-Standard Products

2737. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government during the last five years regarding exporters sending sub-standard products;

(b) the nature of such complaints;

(c) whether Government propose to impose penal charges against exporters for supplying sub-standard quality products;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) whether there is a proposal to set up a 'Quality Council of India' for testing the products quality and confirming quality standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) According to available informa-

tion, about 400 quality related complaints have been received during the last five years. These complaints mainly relate to non-compliance of mutually agreed product specifications, defective packaging, delivery of wrong items, deterioration or contamination particularly in respect of edible/perishable items. The complaints are promptly investigated and appropriate action is taken against the concerned exporters which may include suspension/cancellation of his Importer-Exporter Code Number, his debarment from availing import licences, imposition for fiscal penalties, etc.

(e) According to information received from the department of Industrial Development, the proposal to set up the 'Quality Council of India' broadly envisages the following three principal functions:—

- (1) Formulation of a national accreditation scheme under which accreditation boards would be established for (a) products and quality system certification (b) testing and calibration laboratories (c) quality management personnel and training organisation, in terms of parameters accepted internationally. These accreditation boards will evaluate and accredit certification bodies.
- (2) Initiation of national quality campaign to promote concept of quality in all sectors of the economy. In particular, there would be emphasis on domestic products relating to safety, health, pollution, energy conservation and the service sectors in the interests of domestic consumers. There would also be special emphasis on export markets.
- (3) Constitution of an Information and Enquiry Service to collect and disseminate widely, quality related information and advice to industry, trade, business etc.