

(c) whether Government would implement the crop insurance scheme to such areas, which are prone to unseasonal natural calamities ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) As per information received from Government of Maharashtra an area of 386 hectares of Oranges were damaged to the extent of more than 50% in Vidharbha region of the State due to hailstorm in February, 1994. No damage has been reported to the Orange crop in the region due to hailstorm in April, 1994. Information on damage to foodgrains is awaited from State Government.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) Area based and credit linked Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, for wheat, paddy, millets, pulses and oil seeds to cover damage caused by Natural calamities in notified areas, is already in operation in the State of Maharashtra.

Gur and Khandsari Industry

*368. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industry has an adverse effect on the growth of gur and khandsari industry of the country ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that gur and khandsari are cost effective and have good potential for export; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to encourage these two rural-based industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In international market mostly the sugar of the refined quality and white plantation sugar conforming to high international specifications is traded. There is low acceptability of sugar produced through open pan process (khandsari). There is also limited scope of export of gur.

(c) Does not arise. However, both khandsari and gur sector have been kept outside the purview of the partial control mechanism which is applicable for the sugar industry and are also exempt from Excise duty.

Subsidy on Food

*369. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of subsidy is being given on food, indicate details of the last three years;

(b) what part of this subsidy goes to pay wages; and

(c) what is the difference between the prices paid to the farmers and prices received from the beneficiaries of these subsidies for five important items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The amount of food subsidy given/released to Food Corporation of India during the last three years is as follows:

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1991-92 .	2850
1992-93 .	2785
1993-94 .	5537

(b) The amount of wages paid to the employees/labourers of the Corporation for undertaking various operations during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1991-92 .	463.29
1992-93 .	686.07
1993-94 (RE) .	556.21

(c) Wheat and paddy and coarse grains are currently procured from farmers by the Food Corporation of India in collaboration with the State Governments and their procuring agencies for the Central Pool at the following minimum support prices:

	(Rs. per quintal)	
	1993-94	1994-95
Wheat .	330 (includes central bonus of Rs. 25/- per quintal)	350
Paddy		
Common	310	
Fine	330	
Superfine	350	
Coarse grains		
(Jowar, ragi)	260	
Maize	265	
Barley	260	275

While retail issue prices of foodgrain sold to consumers through Public Distribution System are the termed by State