

Bihar during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Area ('000ha)	Production ('000 tonnes)
1981-82	48.00	49.60
1982-83	50.70	57.00
1983-84	56.90	58.30

(c) Yes Sir, to bring increase in productivity and productivity of rice in the state, a special rice production programme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during the Seventh Five Year Plan which, inter-alia, aims at expanding the area under Summer rice.

Sugar prices in June, 1985 482: SHRI

CHATURANAN MISHRA: SHRI

GURUDAS DAS GUPTA; SHRI

INDRADEEP SINHA; SHRI N. E.

BALARAM; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) whether, the retail price of sugar has risen in June 1985 to Rs. 7.20 per kilo gram;

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

(c) the steps taken to bring the price in open market to the level of the prevailing price in early 1985?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The retail prices of sugar in important markets of Delhi, Kanpur, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras ranged from Rs. 6.20 to Rs. 7.20 per kg. in June, 1985 as against the price range of Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 6.50 per kg. during May 1985.

(c) The decline in sugar production to 59.16 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 season and to

about 61 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 season from the record production of about 84 and 82 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons and significant increase in internal consumption from 1981-82 season onwards has resulted in limited availability of indigenous sugar. It has, therefore, been decided to import 10 lakh tonnes of sugar to augment the sugar supply and keep the prices at reasonable level in the market. The imported sugar is being allocated to the State Governments for being distributed in open market at below Rs. 6/-per kg. and is also being sold by auction tender by the Food Corporation of India. State Governments have been advised to ensure that the wholesale licensed dealers comply with the statutory provisions relating to stock holding limits, 10-day turn over period etc. and suitable action has also been taken for ensuring that the sugar factories under-take sales and despatches of free sale sugar in accordance with the statutory requirement. As a result of these measures as also adequate releases of free sale and levy sugar for internal consumption, the prices of sugar are expected to be maintained at reasonable levels.

Export of Wheat and ATTA

483. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI SHANTI TYAGI;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to export wheat and atta;

(b) if so, the countries to which these food articles are proposed to be exported and the likely earnings in foreign exchange;

(c) whether the proposal is likely to increase the cost of these article* in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for exporting these commodities?