

(b) if so, what is the gap between the requirement and availability of free sale sugar;

(c) the quantity of sugar being imported and how is price compares with the indigenous production cost;

(d) the extent to which this imported sugar will bridge the gap; and

(e) whether this imported sugar is proposed to be utilised to augment the supply of levy sugar or sold to wholesalers in the open market or supplied through public distribution system?

THE MI OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) To augment the availability of indigenous sugar about 7 lakh tonnes of sugar has been contracted for import and the position in this regard is under constant review in the light of actual production trends in the remaining part of the 1984-85 sugar season. Since cane crushing operations are still in progress with a fair number of factories still in operation, it is difficult to quantify the exact quantum of deficit in the availability of indigenous sugar for sale in open market and/or for distribution at controlled price through fair price shops.

The average C&F price of imported sugar recently purchased by the State Trading Corporation of India is Rs. 210.50 per quintal and as against this, the average cost of production of indigenous sugar works out to Rs. 405/- per quintal, approximately on the basis of the all India average cane price of Rs. 22/- per quintal.

(e) To ensure adequate availability of both levy and free sale sugar to consumers and to ensure that free-sale sugar is available at reasonable prices, Government

would use the imported sugar according to the exigencies of the situation and to the best possible effect.

Rural Development Programme in Meghalaya

1845. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various rural development programmes sponsored by the Central Government which are being implemented in Meghalaya at present; and

(b) the amount likely to be allotted for the implementation of these programmes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The Major rural development programmes of this Ministry being implemented in Meghalaya are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP).

(b) The provisional central allocations of funds to Meghalaya for these programmes during 1985-86 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

IRDP	85.46
NREP	34.00
RLEGP	55.00