

(c) the future action plan prepared so far to tackle such situation with the help of private people to improve the productivity of each item in future with proper budgetary allocation according to the demand of each State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Though overtime agriculture productivity of major crops has not decreased, low productivity in several parts of the country, particularly for food crops, is a matter of concern. National Food Security Mission has been launched in 2007 to specifically target the low productivity districts with an aim to obtain additional production of 20 million tonnes of rice, wheat and pulses by end of Eleventh plan. Similarly, Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana has also been launched for enhancing investments in agriculture sector which, *interalia*, will also lead to productivity enhancements.

Implementation of these initiatives coupled with ongoing crops and horticulture development programmes have increased the production and productivity of food grains, horticulture and other crops during Eleventh plan period. There is about 8% increase in production and about 9% increase in productivity of food grains during 2008-09 as compared to 2006-07 (pre-eleventh plan). The total food grains production in 2008-09 was 234.47 million tonnes, as against 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 with record production of rice and wheat crops. The production of Horticulture crops was 214.71 Million tonnes in 2008-09 against 191.81 Million tonnes in 2006-07.

Apart from involving private agencies in supply of agricultural inputs to farmers and for creation of post harvest infrastructure, States can engage with the private sector in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to improve Agriculture productivity in any district.

Engagement of private sector to promote Khadi

*130. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to engage private sector in a big way to market Khadi in our country and also develop and promote Khadi as a global brand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to revitalize the khadi and village industries (KVI) sector for enhanced sustainability of khadi, increased incomes and employment, increased artisan welfare and development of selected village industries through a comprehensive **Khadi Reform and Development Programme (KRDP)** with loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) amounting to US\$150 million for a period of 3 years. KRDP will be implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through 300 selected khadi institutions.

Recognizing the vast potential of growth in the KVI sector, it has been decided to implement the KRDP with private participation by setting up a professionally run marketing organization with majority share from private partner to harness the brand value of khadi, focus on product development on the basis of changing demands of market, leveraging the unique selling proposition of being a heritage product besides being eco-friendly. Private participation is also proposed in the field of raw-material production through execution of PPP models in the KVIC-run Central Sliver Plants besides sliver production at institutional level.

Constant rise in prices of sugar

†*131. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of sugar are on a constant rise inspite of fixing the limit of storage/stock, allowing duty-free import and other remedial measures;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the volume of sugar production, its consumption, its availability, its demand and the availability of stock during each of the last three years and current year as well; and
- (d) the details of the action taken by Government to control prices of sugar and to increase the production of sugarcane and sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The price of non-levy sugar (free-sale sugar) in the open market depends upon a number of factors such as domestic production, demand and supply of sugar; global supply, demand, shortage or surplus in the international market, international prices; market sentiments and expectations etc. The prices have increased due to interplay of market sentiments and demand-production gap. They have also decreased responding to the measures taken by Government to augment domestic availability of sugar and enforce stock holding limits. As on 03.03.2010, prices of sugar are showing declining trend as compared to prices prevailing in the previous month as indicated below:—

Date	Ex-mill prices of S-30 grade of sugar (in Rs. per quintal)		Retail price in Delhi (in Rs. per kg.)
	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Delhi
1	2	3	4
15.01.2010	3650-3670	3890-3940	47.00
01.02.2010	3825-3845	4090-4240	43.00
15.02.2010	3390-3440	3650-3690	43.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.