

completion will provide alternate route bypassing Saharanpur. On Laksar-Dehradun section, works have been taken up for increasing the length of platforms to accommodate longer trains. After the completion of these works, trains to Dehradun will be able to run with 18 coaches as against 13/16 coaches being presently run. This will augment the overall transport capacity.

#### **Corp Excel awards**

\*320. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has given Corp Excel awards to 21 outstanding micro, small and medium enterprises;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the parameters adopted therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to encourage them in such enterprises in the remaining period of Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) National Awards are given away annually to outstanding micro, small and medium enterprises for Entrepreneurship, Research and Development and Quality Products under the National Awards scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The selection is based on clearly laid down criteria which include, manufacturing practices, growth trends, energy conservation, export, testing/inspection of raw materials, quality control standards, pollution control measures etc. The details are available at the webpage of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), [www.dcmsme.gov.in/schemes/award\\_scheme.htm](http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/schemes/award_scheme.htm). The award scheme is given wide publicity through newspaper advertisements, release of posters for display in MSME Development Institutes, District Industries Centres and offices of Director of Industries, etc.

(d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is implementing a number of schemes for technology upgradation and facilitation of credit and marketing support to encourage performance and quality of MSMEs. The major schemes include the national manufacturing competitiveness programme, the credit linked capital subsidy scheme, the credit guarantee scheme and the marketing development assistance scheme.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

#### **Conversion of agriculture land into non-cultivation purposes**

2290. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that vast tracts of cultivable land has been converted into Special Economic Zones in various States;
- (b) if so, the details of such conversion, State-wise and the proportion of the same to the total cultivable land in that State;

(c) whether such conversion of cultivable land into non-cultivation purposes is leading to shortfall of agriculture production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof comparing to the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India does not maintain data in respect of cultivable land that has been converted for Special Economic Zones in various States.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per available data, the food grain production has increased from 198.36 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 234.47 million tonnes in 2008-09.

#### **Benefits of price rise to farmers**

2291. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits of the increasing agro based commodities are not reaching the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the price of sugar in the open market and price paid for procurement of sugarcane in the country including Maharashtra during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that the benefits of price rise reaches the farmers and to contain the role of middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) Prices of agro based commodities depend on the demand supply conditions at the time of marketing of these commodities. Further they depend on the value addition made at different stages of processing in case of processed commodities. The prices received by farmers for the produce depend on the marketing channels followed, trend in market arrivals etc.

Wholesale Price of sugar in the open market in the last two years is given in Statement-I (See below).

The price paid for procurement of sugarcane for the last two years State-wise in the country, including Maharashtra is given in Statement-II (See below).

(c) Agricultural markets are regulated and managed under the Agricultural Produce Market Act enacted by the respective State Governments. The Central Government provides guidance and assistance in the regulation and development of Agricultural Produce Markets. By the end of March, 2009, 7,153 markets have been brought under the ambit of regulation. In the perspective of agricultural marketing reforms and the Model Act, a final draft of the Model APMC Rules, 2007, has been framed and circulated to all the State Governments and UT Administrations for guidance.

The Government also announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 26 crops to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.