

Production of vanaspati

246. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of vanaspati ghee manufacturing units in the country with their locations giving the names and the installed production capacity of each one of them;

(b) what is the percentage of the production capacity at which each such unit was functioning during the last one year;

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure that the vanaspati producing units may work to their full capacity so as to increase the production and the availability of vanaspati;

(d) whether some new licences have been given for producing vanaspati in the country during 1980-81; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons for giving new licences?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b). A statement is enclosed. [See Appendix CXVIII Annexure No. 10].

(c) Government have taken a number of steps to ensure increased production and availability of vanaspati, like a regular supply of imported oils from State Trading Corporation of India, periodic coordination with the concerned authorities with a view to ensuring regular supply of other inputs like coal, power etc. to the vanaspati industry, etc. As a result, the production of Vanaspati had gone up from about 6.18 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 to about 7.40 lakh tonnes in 1980-81.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rise in Prices of Sugar

247. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban on inter-State trade in sugar has caused recent rise in sugar prices; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to bring down the sugar prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) and (b) The inter-State movement of sugar on trade account was banned with the re-introduction of the policy of partial control on sugar in December, 1979, except under permits issued by the Central or the State Governments. In the wake of the recent rise in the prices of free-sale sugar, Government have taken further remedial measures like making higher releases of free-sale sugar in March and April, 1981, to increase availability, and tightening the procedures for inter-State movement of sugar to curb speculative hoarding, profiteering and smuggling of sugar. Under the new procedure, permit, for inter-State movement of free-sale sugar on trade account cannot now be issued by the State Governments without the prior approval of the Central Government.

D.D.A. Flats in Trilokpuri

248. SHRI B. D. KHOBRADE: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government constructed a large number of D.D.A. flats in Trilokpuri about two years back;

(b) whether it is a fact that no buyers are available for these flats even after two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of each has been arbitrarily in-