

Burning of Sugarcane Crops

793. SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA: SHRI N. K. P.
SALVE: SALVE;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have looked into the reports that enormous standing sugarcane crops had been destroyed by burning or otherwise last year when sugar prices had crashed and the farmers could not get reasonable price for sugarcane;

(b) if so the quantum of sugarcane crops that had been burnt or destroyed; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government this year to ensure fair return to farmers for their crops of sugarcane and to encourage production of sugarcane and sugar this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) There were no reports of destroying of cane crops by burning of otherwise during 1979-80. On the contrary there were reports that in many places due to lesser production of sugarcane and higher rates offered by the producers of khandsari and, for there were large scale diversions away from the sugar factories. However, some reports during 1977-78 season about leftover cane had been seen in Press, but in the absence of any official report the quantum cannot be estimated. To ensure crushing of left over cane, the factories had been given incentives for prolonging crushing operations during 1977-78.

(c) The Government have fixed a higher statutory minimum cane price of Rs. 13.00 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery with full proportionate premium for recoveries above that level, as compared to Rs. 12.50 per quintal fixed last year. Considering the capacity of factories to pay higher prices, the Prime Minister has also advised that actual minimum cane price of Rs. 16.00 per quintal

may be paid by the factories in all the States. Reports indicate that in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and Karnataka actual cane prices around Rs. 20 per quintal are being paid. In order to encourage production of sugar the following measures have also been taken by the Government during this season:

(1) Incentives by way of rebate in Excise Duty have been announced for early start of crushing.

(2) Incentives for new factories/expansion projects have been announced.

(3) The excise duty in the case of Khandsari sugar raised to narrow the gap between the rates for khandsari and sugar to check undue diversion of cane away from sugar factories.

(4) Start of khandsari units upto 31st December has been prohibited.

Improvement in Women's Status

794. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR: SHRI N. K. P.
(SALVE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the progress made during the past years in India about the women education employment, per capita income and ownership of property by them;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, showing comparative figures in July 1978 and July, 1980; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to ensure that women in India do not lag behind?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Assessment of progress is made from time to time.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Steps taken include a National Plan of Action for Women which identifies the problems and needed measures and programmes for promoting and assisting women's education, training and employment.

Vacation of Government Accommodation by Retiring Employees

795. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government Employees who retired from service are occupying Government accommodation in the last many months thereby depriving the serving employees of their right of allotment of Government accommodation;

(b) if so, the number of retired employees who have not vacated Government accommodation and the type of accommodation occupied by them; and

(c) whether Government propose to revive its earlier decision regarding allotment of accommodation to the wards of retired Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of retired employees who have not yet vacated Government accommodation, type-wise is as under:—

Type A	85
Type B	92
Type C	160
Type D	138
Type E	4
Type E-1	8
Type E-2	5
Type E-3	-
Hostel	-
TOTAL	492

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Spraying of Coconut Trees in Kerala

796. SHRI T. BASHEER;
SHRI O. J. JOSEPH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have received any comprehensive scheme from Kerala Government for spraying of coconut trees to control diseases and to improve the yield of palms; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Central Government for giving assistance for the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, sir. A scheme to provide cent per cent subsidy for the control of root wilt and leaf root diseases was received by the Central Government.

(b) The Technical Committee set up by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for declaration of a pest of national importance, in its meeting held on 3-11-1980, did not recommend the inclusion of this in the list of diseases of national importance on the ground that neither the cause nor the control measure of the disease is conclusively established. In the circumstances, the question of giving assistance to the Government of Kerala for implementation of the scheme does not arise. However, there is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which Central assistance is made available for the supply of hybrid seedlings and fertilizers to the extent of Rs. 6.34 lakhs as Government of India's share during 1980-81.

Complaints against Telephone Service in the Capital

797. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN
SHEIKH: SHRI LADLI
MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been growing complaints about