

Export of Sugar

330. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the record sugar output has depressed sugar price in the world market thereby affected India's export of sugar;

(b) if so, to what extent India's export of sugar has been affected;

(c) whether India has offered lesser prices as compared to that offered by other sugar exporting countries;

(d) if so, to what extent and what are the reasons for the same; and

(e) what is the quantum of sugar exported during the last year and so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World sugar production in 1977-78 crop year is estimated to be around 89 million tonnes, as against 86 million tonnes, 82.8 million tonnes and 79.1 million tonnes in 1976-77, 1975-76 and 1974-75 respectively. Prices in the world market fell from a peak of 56.14 US cents per pound (about Rs. 10,900/- per tonne) to the lowest quotation of 6.85 US cents per pound (about Rs. 1,500/- per tonne) in July 1977 and are presently around 8.9 US cents per pound (about Rs. 1600 per tonne). India, therefore curtailed its exports of sugar from 8.43 lakh tonnes in 1976 to 2.55 lakh tonnes in 1977.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 2.55 lakh tonnes sugar was exported during 1977. The new International Sugar Agreement entered into force on January 1, 1978. India's effective quota of sugar export for 1978

is about 6.5 lakh tonnes. Government have decided to export this quantity to fulfil its quota. Out of it, 23,800 tonnes have been exported upto the end of March 1978. Steps are being taken to export the balance quantity.

Criteria for fixation of Procurement Price for Wheat and Rice

331. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government were aware of the discontent prevailing among the paddy growers while fixing procurement prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been discrimination in the matter of fixation of sugar cane prices for the North and the South;

(c) what was the ratio of procurement prices of wheat and rice during the last four years;

(d) whether Government propose to change the criteria for fixation of procurement price of wheat and paddy; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been demands for increase in the price of paddy from certain parts of the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government fix the procurement price of wheat. Government also fix the procurement price of rice for contribution to the Central Pool. The procurement price of wheat and rice (coarse variety) during the last 4 years are indicated below:—

(Rs. per Quintal)

Year	Price of wheat (for all varieties for all States)	Price of rice (Coarse variety) (For Punjab, Haryana Andhra Pradesh)	Ratio of procurement price of wheat : Rice
1974-75 . .	105	115.78 to 124.00	1 : 1.10 to 1.18
1975-76 . .	105	121.00 to 127.00	1 : 1.15 to 1.21
1976-77 . .	105	118.00 to 126.00	1 : 1.12 to 1.20
1977-78 . .	110	123.00 to 131.00	1 : 1.12 to 1.19

(d) and (e) The Agricultural Prices Commission recommends the procurement price of wheat and paddy. While recommending the prices, the Commission takes into consideration the available data on cost of production, the changes affected in prices of inputs, the production prospects, the likely trend in prices, the overall economic situation in the country and the need to provide a reasonable margin to the growers. Government consider the recommendations in consultation with the State Governments and fix the procurement prices of wheat and paddy. The question as to what other criteria are to be applied for the future is under active consideration of the Government.

Cash Award for Naming Soft Drink "77"

@332. SHRI M. KADERSHAH;
SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1382 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1977, and state:

(a) whether Shri H. V. Kamath, Member, Lok Sabha, who suggested

@Previously Unstarred Question 180, transferred from the 27th April, 1978.

the name "77" for the soft drink, has been paid the cash award; and

(b) if not, by when the amount is likely to be paid to him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

Panels of Experts for Various Schools and Centres in Jawaharlal Nehru University

†333. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister's Office has asked the Jawaharlal Nehru University for a complete list of panels of experts for various schools and centres in the University; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some appointments, already finalised by duly constituted selection committees, have thus been stayed?

†Previously Unstarred Question 183, transferred from the 27th April, 1978.