

production of khandsari sugar fixed by the Central Government the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, U.P. and Haryana have, in consultation with the Central Government fixed minimum prices for the season 1977-78.

(ii) Export of khandsari sugar has been permitted.

(iii) Stock limits of khandsari dealers have been enhanced.

(iv) Excise duty on khandsari sugar was reduced by 50 per cent, and 75 per cent, respectively on sulphur and deshi khandsari w.e.f. 4-2-78.

(v) Bank margins regarding credit to khandsari manufacturers/ traders have been reduced.

(c) In the case of gur, there is no basic price payable as there is no control. However, restrictions on export of gur have been removed. Also, the FCI and the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation have purchased gur at a premium above the market price.

The Government is aware of the fact that there is a large production of cane this year, primarily in the State of U.P., and it has been ascertained from the State Government that they are taking necessary steps including prosecution of offenders to ensure that statutorily payable price is paid.

However, the Government does not take the responsibility of ensuring a remunerative price for all the cane that the growers may produce and therefore the question of making good the loss suffered by growers due to over production does not arise.]

Allotment of flats/plots to the accredited press correspondents

594. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA CHARYA; Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Government flats/plots in Delhi which have so far been allotted to the accredited Press Correspondents from the Press Pool and the General Pool and what is the number of accredited Press Correspondents who are still on the waiting list;

(b) what is the number of the accredited Press Correspondents who have built their own houses on the plots allotted to them and who have vacated Government accommodation;

(c) whether Government propose to ask those persons who own houses to vacate Government accommodation for those who are still on the waiting list; and

(d) whether Government propose to raise the quota of Press Pool houses to accommodate accredited Press correspondents who are still on the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

595. [Transferred to the 9th May, 1978.]

Concessions to the students of the backward classes

596. SHRI F. M. KHAN; Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state: