

Suggestion regarding a separate UGC for South

1518. SHRI T. ANJIAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a Statement reported to have been made by the Education Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggesting the setting up of a separate University Grants Commission for the South; and

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, representations were made to the State Education Minister that a University Grants Commission for the four Southern States would more effectively serve those areas. The State Education Minister suggested that the request deserved consideration and necessary examination. The State Government has, however, not taken any action in the matter so far.

As the Government have not received any proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Government, the question of its reaction does not arise.

Distribution of levy sugar in villages

1519. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the levy sugar is distributed in villages through fair price shops; if so, what is the quantity of sugar issued per unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

CULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANUPRATAP SINGH):

In accordance with the decision taken on 27th October, 1977, the Statewise monthly levy sugar quotas were refixed from December, 1977, with reference to the projected population as on 1-4-1978 ensuring 425 grams of monthly per capita availability. All the State Governments were also advised to gear up the distribution machinery to ensure distribution at the enhanced level and also to treat the rural and urban population in a similar manner for the purpose of distribution of levy sugar. 23 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have informed that similar scale for distribution of levy sugar for urban and rural population has been introduced. However, depending upon the number of ration card units, the scale of distribution would differ from State to State.

Nursery education in the educational programmes of government

1520. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nursery education does not find any place in the educational policy and programmes formulated by the Central and the State Governments;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no separate organization at the Centre or at the State level for nursery education and that no separate allocation is made for the purpose in the Plans and the Budget;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to give due place to nursery education in Government's educational policy?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAPCHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). Nursery education did not find a place in the National Policy Resolution on Education formulated in 1968. However, the National Policy for Children formulated in 1974 provides for a programme of informal education for pre-school children in the case of girls and children of the weaker sections of the society. The Departments of Education and Social Welfare, National Council of Educational Research and Training and National Institute of Public Cooperation and child development are concerned with the subject of pre-school education. The programme of integrated child development service administered by the Social Welfare Department as pre-school education for the children 3—5 age group, is one of the components. The scheme is under implementation in 33 integrated child development services projects which is being expanded to cover 67 new projects in 1978-79. This programme has also been included in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan 1978—83. The State Governments also provide for pre-school education in their plan and non-plan budgets.

(d) Government will take into consideration the suggestion for giving due place to nursery education in the draft National Education Policy while it is being finalised.

Leakage of levy sugar into the open market

1521. SHRI N. K. P. SAI VE :

SHRI KHURSHED
ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loss of about Rs. 100 crores a year is being suffered by Government due to clandestine leakage of levy sugar into the open market; and

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). There have been representations to the effect that there is some leakage of levy sugar into the open market, and while action has been taken, as explained below, it is not possible, in the nature of things, to precisely estimate the quantum.

The State Governments, to whom monthly levy sugar quota is allotted, are responsible for its proper and equitable distribution through the fair price shops. Therefore, while re-fixing the State-wise monthly quotas of levy sugar and consequently increasing monthly levy release from 2.65 lakh tonnes to 2.71 lakh tonnes from December, 1977, all the State Governments were advised to gear up the distribution machinery to ensure distribution at the enhanced level and also to treat the rural and urban population in a similar manner for the purpose of distribution of levy sugar. In view of some Press reports alleging diversion of a part of levy sugar to free market, the matter was again taken up in April and May, 1978 with all the State Governments, emphasising the imperative need to take necessary measures for stopping the leakage of levy sugar in free market. 25 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, which have already sent the reply, have denied that there was any large scale leakage of levy sugar into open market and they have also pointed out that as