

in transit are inevitable. The salvaging operations were conducted promptly at Raigarh. That was why the loss suffered was 50 Kgs. only in as many as 2694 bags out of 35419, affected by rain.

Sugarcane burnt by the sugarcane growers due to non-purchase by sugar mills

*86. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of sugarcane burnt annually in the fields by the sugarcane growers due to non-purchase of cane by the sugar mills;

(b) what is the loss suffered by the sugarcane growers on this account; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to protect the interests of the sugarcane growers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

Statement

Government of India have not received any official report as to the burning of sugarcane in the fields either this year or during the past few years due to non-purchase of cane by the sugar mills. However, the production of sugarcane during the current year is estimated at 172 million tonnes as against 154 million tonnes last year. The sugar factories would be crushing this year about 68 million tonnes as compared to 49 million tonnes last year. Even though the crushing by the sugar factories would be about 19 million tonnes more than last year due to the fact that the gur and khandsari manufacturers have not crushed as much cane as they usually do. There is likelihood of some excess cane remaining uncrushed. However, the correct position will be known only by the end of the season.

2. The Government have taken a number of measures to protect the interests of sugarcane growers which are as follows:—

1. All restrictions on the export of gur have been removed.

2. Margins on bank credits both for gur and khandsari manufacturers/traders have been reduced.

3. Government agencies like Food Corporation of India and NAFED had purchased gur as a measure to prevent prices falling very low.

4. Some State Governments have reduced the Purchase Tax on sugarcane at the instance of the Central Government.

5. Stock limits of khandsari dealers have been enhanced to 5,000 quintals.

6. Export of khandsari, sugar has been permitted.

7. Continuous monitoring is done and contact maintained with the State Governments to keep the cane arrears under check.

8. The Sugarcane (Control) Order has been amended w.e.f. 2-2-1978 to provide for 15 per cent interest on delayed payments of cane price which is comparable to commercial rates of interest. Another amendment has been made to the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, making a statutory provision regarding the rebate in respect of cane supplied at purchase centres of khandsari units from the minimum cane price fixed for them by some of the State Governments like U.P., Andhra Pradesh and Haryana.

9. Provision has also been made in the Sugarcane (Control) Order for the transfer of unpaid cane price itself at the end of the sugar year to the Collector of the District with the stipulation that payments will be made to bonafide claimants and amounts still remaining at the end of the three years from the end of the

relevant sugar year will become part of the consolidated fund of the State and the same will be utilized by the State Govt. as far as possible for the development of sugarcane.

10. A scheme has been notified on 28-4-1978 for giving a rebate in excise duty to encourage and enable to the factories to crush beyond 30th April, 1978.

11. Export of 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1978 has been permitted.

12. Credit limits to sugar factories to enable them to carry additional production have been enhanced.

Manipulation in the publication of data relating to cost of jute

*87 SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few top officials of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and the Agricultural Prices Commission have been manipulating the collection compilation and publication of data relating to the cost of cultivation of jute and fixation and announcement of minimum statutory price of raw jute for some time past, and

(b) whether Government have instituted any enquiry into the matter; if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of Prof. R. S. Sharma's Book 'Ancient India'

*89. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:

SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prof. R. S. Sharma's book 'Ancient India' has been withdrawn from syllabus of the Central Schools, if so, since when;

(b) what are the reasons for withdrawal; and

(c) whether Government have issued directions to reintroduce the book in the syllabus of the Central Schools?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir. The book has been withdrawn from the list of approved text books during the academic session 1978-79.

(b) The book contains some controversial passages.

(c) No, Sir.

Non-settlement of disputes by the Indian Hockey Federation

*90. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

SHRI L. R. NAIK:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Executive Committee of the Indian Hockey Federation has not responded to Government's directive for settling disputes through arbitration; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?