

Vamanapuram River Valley Irrigation Project in Kerala

*73. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any report from the Kerala Government on the Vamanapuram River Valley irrigation project; and

(b) if so, what action Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI : SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The project report was received in the Central Water Commission in December, 1973.

(b) The project report was examined by the Central Water Commission and comments of the Commission were sent to the State Government during 1974. Replies to the comments are still awaited.

Sugarcane yield

*74. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the sugarcane yield in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of sugarcane produced in 1977 as against that in 1978;

(c) what is the quantity of sugarcane purchased by the mills during the years 1977 and 1978; what is the quantity of sugar produced during that period; and

(d) what are the rates at which sugarcane was purchased by the mills during the current year in various States and what are the reasons for which the entire quantity of sugarcane produced by farmers was not procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A quantity of 154 million tonnes of cane was produced in 1976-77 season. Against this, a production of about 172 million tonnes is estimated during the current season of 1977-78.

(c) During the season of 1976-77, 48.9 million tonnes of cane was crushed by sugar factories to produce 48.43 lakh tonnes of sugar. Against this they are expected to crush about 68 million tonnes of cane during the season of 1977-78 resulting in production of about 64 to 65 lakh tons of sugar.

(d) A statement showing statutory minimum cane price fixed by Central Government and the cane prices actually paid by factories during 1977-78 is attached, (Annexure).

There has been an unprecedented excess production of cane during 1977-78 season. While the area under sugarcane increased from 2872 thousand hectares in 1976-77 to 3039 thousand hectares in 1977-78, the cane production increased from 154 million tonnes during 1976-77 to 172 million tonnes during 1977-78. All efforts are being made to maximise off-take of cane by sugar factories. With this aim in view, an excise duty rebate scheme for the period 1-5-78 to 30-9-78 has already been announced on 28-4-78 to encourage late crushing. State Governments are fully alive to the situation and relief measures like of purchase tax etc. are being resorted to by some of them. Even though there has been an excess production of 18 million tonnes of sugarcane this year, the sugar factories have crushed over 19 million tonnes more than the previous year. Gur and Khandasari manufacturers have not crushed their usual quantity of cane which may account for a short-fall in the off-take of cane this year.