

under the charge of a Youth Coordinator who is expected to organise a network of youth clubs and to coordinate the activities of Government, as well as those of voluntary agencies engaged in nation-building activities. Selection of Youth Coordinators is made by a Central Selection Committee from amongst candidates recommended by the State Governments. So far 87 posts of Youth Coordinators have been filled up and the remaining are vacant.

Information regarding the total expenditure incurred on the Youth Coordinators till the end of March 1976 is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Closing down of Sugar Mills in U.P.

♦76. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA : SHRI
YOGENDRA SHARMA : SHRI
RABI RAY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh have been closed down due to shortage of sugarcane;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for the shortage of sugarcane;

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to remedy the situation; and

(d) to what extent has it affected the production of sugar and the employment of workers in the Mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Most of the 77 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh have stopped crushing for the season earlier than expected mainly because of shortage of cane caused by reduction in cane area, fall in average yield of sugarcane per hectare attributable to prolonged monsoon, waterlogging and lack of adequate winter rains, and large scale diversion of cane to gur and khandsari units.

(c) Shortage of cane in U. P. this year has been, in the main, due to natural climatic reasons over which the Government have no control. To check diversion of cane from sugar factories to gur and khandsari units, guidelines were last issued in October, 1975 to State Governments to reserve areas for supply of sugarcane to the sugar factories, taking into account the requirements and crushing capacity of the sugar factories and not to issue new licences for setting up of khandsari units within the zone of a sugar factory.

(d) The sugar production in U. P. during the current 1975-76 season is expected to be about 2.65 lakh tonnes less than the production of 1974-75 season. The precise effect of early closure of sugar factories on employment of workers is not known.

Rise in prices of pulses

*77. DR. V. B. SINGH :
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : SHRI
HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : SHRI
HIMMAT SINGH : SHRI R.
NARASIMHA REDDY ;

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of pulses have recently risen considerably;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor especially when the production of pulses this year has reached 13 million tonnes against 9.5 million tonnes last year; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of pulses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) There has been some seasonal rise in the prices of moong and urad recently but this has been more than off-set by the fall in the prices of other pulses. The price index for pulses as a group has shown a continuous fall in recent weeks. This is attributed mainly to expectation of a significant increase in production during 1975-76 over the previous year's level of 10.4 million tonnes.

(c) Does not arise.