

talks on Sharing Ganga waters and the long outstanding issue of Farakka Barrage.

(b) Does not arise.]

**Meeting of the M.P. Ministers with P.M. for Greater Central Assistance**

302. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of Ministers of the Government of Madhya Pradesh met the Prime Minister and the Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister recently for greater Central Assistance for their drought-stricken State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Ministers requested that a Central Team should be deputed to visit Madhya Pradesh in order to assess the drought situation there and suggest what Central help should be given to the State. This request was accepted and a Central Team was duly sent to M.P. The report of the team is under the consideration of Government in consultation with the State Government.

**Development of Banana Production in Madhya Pradesh**

303. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1974 and state:

(a) whether the scheme for banana development in Madhya Pradesh covering 800 hectares of area in the first year of the Fifth Year Plan has since been approved by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assis-

tance given to that State in this respect; and

(c) if not, reasons for delay in the approval?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) and (b). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Package Programme on banana in Madhya Pradesh covering an area of 300 hectares in the first year of the Fifth Five Year Plan has been sanctioned at an outlay of Rs. 1.19 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

**Price of Sugar**

304 SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar prices in different States are uniform;

(b) if so, what is the present retail and controlled prices of sugar; and

(c) what is the price of sugar—both ex-mill and ex-godown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The uniform retail price of levy sugar is Rs. 2.15 per kilogram all over the country, whereas the prices of non-controlled sugar in the open market in selected centres varied from Rs. 4.65 to Rs. 5.35 per Kg. as on 11.11.74.

(c) A statement showing ex-factory/godown prices statutorily fixed for levy sugar (D-29 grade) in different zones for 1973-74 production is attached.

**Statement**

*Ex-factories price for D-29 grade of sugar excluding excise duty for 1973-74 season*

Zone	Price
1. Punjab . . . . .	194.03
2. Haryana . . . . .	170.08
3. Rajasthan . . . . .	175.52
4. West U.P. . . . .	157.83
5. Central U.P. . . . .	155.30