

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the production of sugar and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total release of levy sugar was reduced to 1.90 lakh tonnes for June 1974 and 1.80 lakh tonnes for July and August 1974 from the previous level of 2 lakh tonnes per month during January to May, 1974.

(c) The increase in the basic minimum cane price since 1972-73, continuance of policy of partial control and grant of incentives have already contributed to increase in cane acreage. The production during 1973-74 should normally have been 43 to 45 lakh tonnes but for the damage caused to standing sugarcane crop by pynilla infestation, lack of winter rains and continued frost mainly in U.P. and Bihar. It is now estimated to be near 40 lakh tonnes, which is still higher than the production of 38.7 lakh and 31.1 lakh tonnes during the previous two years.

Freezing of enrolment at the High School Level

515. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have decided to freeze the enrolment at high school level during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Roads and Bridges in Maharashtra

516. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received proposals during the Years 1972-73 and 1973-74 from the Maharashtra Government regarding development of roads and bridges;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government thereon; and

(c) the details of the special assistance proposed to be given by the Central Government for the development of roads in that State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Presumably, the Member is having in mind proposals pertaining to the following road/bridge schemes:

(1) New additions to the existing National Highway System in the 5th Plan.

(2) Loan assistance in the 5th Plan for State Roads of inter-State or Economic Importance.

(3) New road schemes to be financed from Central Road Fund.

Maharashtra Government's proposals pertaining to (1) and (2) above have been received. However, as the 5th Plan detailed programmes are still in a preparatory state, it is not possible to indicate at present the extent to which the proposals under these two categories would be accepted in the 5th Plan.

As regards Central Road Fund Schemes referred to in (3) above, funds to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 280 lakhs were available to State Government of Maharashtra in the 4th Plan under Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve and Central Road Fund (Allocations) respectively. Three works against the entire amount of Rs. 20 lakhs under the Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve were approved on 27th February, 1973 and 64 works aggregating to Rs. 277.72 lakhs against the central Road Fund (Allocations) were approved during 1972-73. For the Fifth Plan, proposals worth Rs. 559.95 lakhs have been invited from the State for works to be financed from their Central Road Fund (Allocations) Account, which the State Government have to submitted so far.