

Faculty of Law and Department of Zoology (Physiology of Reproduction) respectively. The purpose of the assistance was to improve research and education in the University. The period of assistance expired in September, 1973. On a request from the University it has been agreed that the University may utilise the balance of the authorised assistance upto February, 1975.

Shortfall in production of Sugar

294. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar has gone down considerably during the last year;

(b) if so, the extent of shortfall and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the demand in view of the shortfall in production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) No, Sir. On the other hand the sugar production during 1972-73 (1st October, 1972 to 30th September, 1973) was 38.73 lakh tonnes as against 31.13 lakh tonnes in 1971-72, and the sugar production is expected to be around 45 lakh tonnes during the current season.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cargo ships of the Shipping Corporation of India at Calcutta and Bombay Ports

295. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE:

SHRI KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cargo ships, bulk carriers and oil containers of the Shipping Corporation of India landed at the Calcutta and Bombay ports respectively during the last two years;

(b) the quantity of cargo unloaded at the ports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Food crisis in Kerala

296. SHRI K. MATHEW KURIAN:
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have recently received any communication from the Kerala Government to the effect that the State is facing acute food crisis;

(b) whether the State Government have also sent any protest to the Central Government against the reduction in the supply of rice to that State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to ensure adequate supplies of rice to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala have reported about the difficult food situation in the State and requested for increased allocations of rice from the Central Pool. Keeping in view the overall availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the relative needs of States, market availabilities and other relevant factors, maximum possible supplies of rice are being made to the State. The Government of Kerala are in constant touch with the Central Government in this regard.

Price of Sugar

297. SHRI GURMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIRJI:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

SHRI O. P. TYAGI:

SHRI J. B. RAJU:

SHRI V. B. RAJU:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

SHRI VFERENDRA PATIL:

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANI-
SHANKER JOSHI:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of sugar in open market, even though there is ample production as per Government's assessment, has abnormally increased; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose as a short measure to acquire all sugar produced and create sizeable buffer stocks to relieve burden of increasing prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) The production of sugar, no doubt, increased by about 7.6 lakh tonnes during 1972-73, but the benefit of it was more than wiped out by a lesser carry-over from the previous year by about 8 lakh tonnes. Further, 2.5 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported last year as against 1.5 lakh tonnes in the previous one to earn the much-needed foreign exchange. Consequently, the overall availability of sugar for domestic consumption was much less during 1972-73 season. Though the production so far during the current season is somewhat less than what it was during the corresponding period of last season, it promises to pick up and ultimately be better than last year's. This year most of the factories are paying much higher cane prices than the notified minimum, and the cost of manufacturing has increased and the excise duty on free sale sugar has also been increased from 30 to 37.5% from the 15th December, 1973. There is also a general expectation that because of the present oil crisis and the ruling unprecedented high prices of sugar in the world market, exports of sugar would be further increased to the maximum extent possible. On account of these factors, the price of sugar in free market has tended to be high. Movement difficulties from time to time caused by railway strikes and shortage of diesel oil for road movement have contributed further to this trend.

(b) The Government have already accepted, in principal the need for maintaining buffer stocks of sugar, but its implementation will be possible only when the production is sufficient to meet both the demand within the country and the requirements for export. As the partial control policy on sugar has paid rich dividends by way of ensuring better production, higher cane prices for the growers and availability

of reasonable quantity of sugar to consumers at stable price, there is no proposal under consideration to change it.

Shipping service between India and Sri Lanka

298. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start in the near future a joint shipping service between India and Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yest, Sir.

(b) Establishment of a joint shipping service between India and Sri Lanka was agreed during the course of discussions held between shipping delegations in November 1973. It is expected that the service will commence after matters relating to pattern of operation, frequency of services etc. have been sorted out and a vessel suitable for this trade has been secured.

Re-Development Plan for Raisina Road Area in New Delhi

299. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the re-development plan of Raisina Road area in New Delhi has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to allot some of the plots to educational institutions and political parties; and

(d) if so, the names of institutions/political parties to which plots are to be allotted and the reserve price fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) A re-development plan for the area bounded by Raisina