

7. Spain.
8. Turkey.
9. U.S.S.R.

Production and Ration Quota of Sugar

169. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA:
 SHRI SANDA NARAYANAP-PA:
 SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JA-GARALAMUDI:
 SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
 SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:
 SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
 SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of sugar this year has been more than the last year;

(b) if so, what are the production figures of this year, and the last year; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the per capita supply of sugar from ration shops to consumers was curtailed due to fall in production of sugar and whether now it is proposed to restore the cut to the consumers and also supply additional sugar to consumer on important festivals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar during 1972-73 sugar year was 38.72 lakh tonnes as against 31.13 lakh tonnes in 1971-72 season.

(c) Levy sugar is being allotted monthly to all the States on a rational basis after taking into consideration the population figures recorded in the 1971 census, the pattern of consumption during 1967-68 and 1968-69 when the difference between the price of levy sugar and free market sugar was significant, and the sugar stocks from time to time. Although

production of sugar in 1972-73 increased by about 7.6 lakh tonnes, the carry-over from the previous year was less by about 8 lakh tonnes. The total availability in the year was consequently less than in the previous year and the allotments to States could not be increased. It has been left to the State Governments to fix the scale of levy sugar sold by ration/fair price shops for domestic consumption subject to a maximum of 1 kg per head per month and minimum of 1 kg per family per month.

The releases during 1974-75 season which began in October last will be similarly decided in the context of availability from time to time.

Crisis in Coastal Shipping

170. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:
 SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:
 SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
 DR. Z. A. AHMAD:
 SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
 SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR:
 SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:
 SHRI J. S. TILAK:

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

(a) whether coastal shipping is facing a crisis; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) and (b) Due to continued uncertainty about long term availability of important items of cargo like coal, coastal shipping tonnage has declined in recent years. However coastal shipping has now been assured of adequate quantities of coal upto a limit of 6.5 million tonnes during the Fifth Plan. Coastal shipping tonnage is expected to increase substantially during the Fifth Plan.