

(c) The levy sugar is being sold through fair price shops at a uniform price of Rs. 2.15 per kg. throughout the country from the 1st December, 1972.

(d) During the financial year 1972-73, a quantity of 12.43 lakh tonnes was released to sugar factories for free sale.

Implementation of statutory rationing

1277. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are implementing statutory rationing in all the famine affected States in India; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) In all the States, including the drought affected States, foodgrains are distributed to consumers through fair price shops at fixed prices. Statutory rationing is now in force only in Bombay, Calcutta and the Asansol-Durgapur industrial complex. There is, at present, no proposal under the consideration of the Government to extend the system of statutory rationing to other areas.

Construction of houses by DDA in EPDP Colony, Kalkaji, New Delhi

1278. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 640 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 1972 and State;

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of more than 50 percent of the total number of 284 houses agreed upon by the DDA with the plot holders of EPDP Colony in Kalkaji, New Delhi, could not be completed within the stipulated period of 1½ years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the delay in construction and steps being taken to complete the construction of the remaining houses and by when they are expected to be completed; and

(c) whether the cost of construction of the left-over houses is likely to increase as a result of delay in construction; and if so which party would be required to make good the excess cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) to (c) 271 houses are to be constructed by the D.D.A. Out of 198 houses taken up for construct in the first group, 59 were handed over to the owners in May, 1973, 48 are in the process of being handed over and the remaining houses are expected to be completed by October, 1973.

As regards the 73 houses to be taken up in the second group, drawings are to be prepared and the work will be taken up after tenders are called and awarded. The cost of construction of these houses will depend upon the tender rate etc.

The delay in the construction of the houses in the first group was due to factors like the large number of alternatives and types of designs which had to be prepared to the satisfaction of the individuals, delay in getting water supply connection and scarcity of cement.

Rabi Crash Programme

1279. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of Rabi Cash Programme; and

(b) what has been achieved State-wise against the investment provided to them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The Emergency Agricultural Production Programme, which was undertaken during 1972-73 to meet the situation created by drought during the kharif season of that year, was based principally on minor irrigation. Special allocations of financial assistance were made to State Governments to enable them to take up