

(b) The freight charges met in dollars and in rupees in respect of the financial years 1969-70 and 1970-71 were :

(Estimated amount of freight charges in crores of rupee)

	Rupees equivalent of freight paid in dollars	Paid in rupees
1969-70 . . .	18.83	9.18
1970-71 . . .	12.68	13.72

ARTIFICIAL SHORTAGE OF SUGAR

806. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the artificial shortage and the price spurt of sugar in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) There is no shortage of sugar in the country. However, there has been some rise in its price during the last 2 or 3 months.

(b) The following steps have been taken to increase production of sugar during the year :—

(i) It has been made clear to sugar factories that they are expected to attract more supplies of sugarcane by paying higher cane price than the minimum fixed by the Central Government. In view of the higher realisations they have been getting by sale of sugar after decontrol.

(ii) A rebate of Rs. 17 per quintal in Central excise duty on sugar produced upto the 30th November, 1971, and of Rs. 16 per quintal on sugar produced thereafter upto the 30th September, 1972, in excess of 80% of the sugar produced during the corresponding periods in 1970-71, has been allowed.

(iii) The State Governments have been requested to grant similarly a rebate in cane purchase tax.

(iv) The State Governments have also been requested to restrict establishment of khandsari units and power crushers in sugar factory areas and to regulate their working.

(v) Forward trading in gur has been suspended with a view to stopping speculative bullish tendency in the gur prices.

The following measures have also been taken to check undue rise in price of sugar :—

(i) Factories have been forbidden from refusing to sell sugar when they balance of released stocks on hand.

(ii) Factories are required to sell in each weekly period at least 20 percent of their monthly sugar quota released to them for sale.

(iii) Despatch or delivery of sugar by factories to individual dealers has been restricted to 2,200 quintals of sugar in each weekly period.

(iv) Restrictions have been imposed on stocks which the licensed sugar dealers can hold at any one time. The maximum limit varies between 7,500 quintals in the case of importers of sugar in Calcutta and 250 quintals in case of towns with a population of less than one lakh.

(v) Restrictions have been imposed on bank advances to sugar trade against sugar stocks.

(vi) By an arrangement between the sugar factories in Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Government, 15 percent of the sugar production of these factories is being distributed on a per capita basis in Maharashtra through fair price shops at a price level of about Rs. 1.83 to 1.84 per Kilogram.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाल आपाती निधि से प्राप्त सहायता

807. श्री राम सहाय : क्या शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्रों यह बात ने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाल आपाती निधि से प्राप्त सहायता को सरकार 1971-72