

NATIONALISATION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

*126. SHRI BANKA BEHARY

DAS:†

DR. BHAJ MAHAVIR;

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM;

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI;

SHRI KRISHAN KANT;

SHRI G. R. PATIL;

SHRI CHITTA BASU;

SARDAR HARCHARAN

SINGH DUGAL;

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA;

SHRI J. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding nationalisation of sugar industries in the country;

(b) if so, whether the industry will be nationalised as a whole or industries in particular States will be nationalised;

(c) whether Government had any discussion or correspondence in the matter with Governments of U.P. and Bihar; and

(d) if no, the reaction of each of those State Governments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government have decided to set up a Committee to study the working of the sugar industry in the country in the context of the demand for its nationalisation. The constitution and terms of reference of the Committee are being processed.

(c) and (d) The previous Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had addressed the Prime Minister as well as the Minister of Food and Agriculture in this connection. The new Government of U.P. have appointed a three

man panel to examine the form and procedure of take-over of sugar mills. No communication in this regard has been received from the Government of Bihar.

But, Sir, just now, I have received a communication from Bihar saying that the statement made by the Bihar Chief Minister may be treated as a policy decision of the Bihar Government.

Then I come to question No. 133.

NATIONALISATION OF SUGAR MILLS IN STATES

*133. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have consulted legal experts in regard to the States' capacity to nationalise sugar mills; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such consultation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The legal opinion is that a State Legislature is also competent to make a law for the acquisition of sugar undertakings.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: There has been a persistent demand for the nationalisation of sugar mills in this country and I am sorry that for a few months there was a little bit of political overtone in this matter when a Resolution was passed, as regards UP is concerned, in a particular session of the Congress Party. So, may I know from the Government, in view of the fact that the sugar industry has been by and large controlled by the Government of India as regards the price of sugar-cane and the price of sugar, whether they will finally decide that the sugar industry as a whole in the country, in the interests of the nation and its economy, will be taken over without waiting long for Committee Reports?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Banka Behary Das.