

LEVY SYSTEM IN WEST BENGAL

*37. SHRI B. GUPTA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed levy system for the procurement of foodgrains in West Bengal has given rise to any discontent among the peasantry ; and

(b) whether Government are considering the desirability of exempting the peasantry from this levy ?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI) : (a) and (b). The Government of India are not aware of any discontent among the peasantry about the proposed levy system for the procurement of foodgrains in West Bengal; there was some agitation about the 7 maunds per head per year being the quantity permitted to be retained by the producer for his consumption requirements. Since then the Government of West Bengal have raised this allowance to 10 maunds.

AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*38. SHRI S. MAHANTY : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the price per ton at which private manufacturers are required to sell ammonium sulphate to the Central Fertiliser Pool ;

(b) the price per ton at which the Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., sell their production of ammonium sulphate to the said Pool ; and

(c) the price per ton of ammonium sulphate the said Pool charges from the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI) : (a) The sulphate of Ammonia sold by the private manufacturers to the Pool is the byproduct obtained in the Iron, Steel & Coke factories. This is sold to the Pool at a negotiated price of Rs. 310 per ton F.O.R. works or Calcutta.

(b) Rs. 350 per ton F. O. R., despatching station.

(c) The present pool price is Rs. 365 per ton F.O.R. despatching station.

SUGARCANE

6. SHRI M. P. N. SINHA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what price has been fixed for sugarcane in the States of U. P., Bihar and Punjab for the current season ;

(b) whether Govt, had consulted the Cane-growers' Associations, the Kisan Sabhas, the All India Congress Committee, Provincial Congress Committees, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party of India, the Kisan Mazdur Praja Party, the Sugar Syndicate and the Mill-owners' Association (Sugar) of different States before fixing the price; if not, why not ;

(c) what is the 'Shrivastava' formula :

(d) whether Govt, had ascertained the cost of sugarcane cultivation per bigha in the said States before fixing the price ; if so, by what method ; if not, why not ;

(e) what was the amount of profit made by the sugar industry during the last three years (year by year) ?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI) : (a) A minimum of Rs. 15h per maund of cane delivered at the gate of the sugar factories and Rs. 1/3/- per maund at rail-centres.

(/.) The question of fixation of sugarcane prices for 1952-53 season, was discussed in a meeting held at New Delhi, on the 18th September 1952, at which the representatives of the sugar producing States, the Cane growers, the sugar mills, the sugar merchants and of the Govt, of India, were present. It was not considered advisable to consult political parties.