

Setting up of National Commission for fishermen

†*77. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to boost fisheries production, Government has formulated the scheme of providing loans to fishermen on lower interest rates, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any plans to set up a National Commission for Fishermen for the welfare of fishermen, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Madam. No such scheme has been formulated by Government of India to provide concessional loans to fishermen.

(b) No, Madam. However Government of India has a Central Sector Scheme 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen', which provides for Group Accident Personal Insurance, relief during fishing ban, low cost houses and training to fishermen.

Rise in prices of sugar

*78. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased import duty on sugar and has increased export subsidy in order to help the sugar industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these measures have resulted in the rise of prices of sugar for the consumers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure that the long pending arrears to the cane growers are cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The import duty on sugar was increased from 10% to a moderate level of 15% with effect from 08.07.2013 which is still in vogue. As regards export subsidy, the Central Government has notified a scheme on 28.02.2014 to provide incentive for marketing and promotion services for raw sugar production targeted for export. The rate of incentive for the bi-monthly period of February-March was ₹ 3300/- per MT and has been re-calculated for the subsequent bimonthly periods of April-May and June-July, 2014 at Rs 2277 and Rs 3300 per MT respectively.

(b) No Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.