

Government of Chhattisgarh had proposed to procure paddy by paying bonus over the MSP declared by the Government of India, it has been conveyed to Government of Chhattisgarh that as per MoU, the Central Government would limit procurement for Central pool to the extent of requirement of rice for TPDS/OWS allocation of the State. Government of Chhattisgarh *vide* letter dated 26.11.2019 has now informed that the State Government has decided to procure paddy under KMS 2019-20 at the MSP notified by the Government of India.

### **Decline in production of sugar**

1369. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sharp decline in production of sugar has been reported in Maharashtra which may create shortage of sugar in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons behind the decline in production; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take to protect the interests of sugar producers and sugarcane growers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) It has been informed by Sugar Commissioner of the State of Maharashtra that the sugar production during current sugar season 2019-20 is estimated at about 58.3 lakh MT *vis-a-vis* about 107 lakh MT produced during last sugar season 2018-19. However, with the carryover stock of about 140 lakh MT of last sugar season together with estimated production of 273 lakh MT during current sugar season, the total availability of sugar in the country is estimated to be about 413 lakh MT as against estimated domestic consumption of 260 lakh MT. Thus, it is expected that there would not be any shortage of sugar in the country in near future. The decline in sugar production in sugar season 2019-20 in the State of Maharashtra is mainly due to low availability of cane following drought last year and heavy rainfall in this year.

- (c) In order to improve the liquidity of sugar mills to enable them to clear the cane dues of the farmers in time, the Government has already taken various measures

for the current sugar season including creation of buffer stocks of 40 lakh MT with interest subvention of about ₹ 1674 crore to be borne by Government, Maximum Admissible Export Quantity of 60 lakh MT with financial assistance of about 6200 crore and also allowed production of ethanol from C-Hy or B-Hy molasses or sugarcane juice or sugar syrup or sugar for supply to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Programme at remunerative prices.

**Funds for development of fisheries**

1370. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating on augmenting the production of fisheries and provide sufficient infrastructure facilities for development of fisheries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of funds earmarked for this purpose;
- (d) the details of the funds released to each State so far;
- (e) the details of the funds provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh for this purpose; and
- (f) the infrastructure developed so far since its inception for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying since the Fiscal year 2015-16 has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of fisheries with a total central outlay of ₹ 3000 crore for holistic development of fisheries sector in the country. The CSS *inter alia* aims towards enhancing the fish production, productivity as well as creation of infrastructure for fisheries sector.

Besides, in order to address the infrastructure requirements for fisheries sector, the — Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and