

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Two proposals for financial assistance for expansion and modernisation of Sugar Mills have been received from Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94, viz., M/s. Seksaria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd., Sitapur and M/s. Khalilabad Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Basti.

(b) The case of M/s. Seksaria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd., Sitapur has been cleared by the Government for grant of loan to the tune of Rs. 170.60 lakhs.

(c) The remaining proposal of M/s. Khalilabad Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Basti was considered by the Standing Committee on SDF in its meeting held on 19-8-1993 but was not cleared due to lack of proper financial tie-up of the financial outlay for the project. Thereafter the financial institutions have increased their share from Rs. 810 lakhs to Rs. 1155 lakhs (including the banks' share) subject to approval of the competent authority. The case will now be re-considered by the Standing Committee of SDF in its next meeting likely to be held on 24-12-1993.

[English]

#### **Wheat and Sugarcane Cultivation**

\*274. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been gradual decline in the area under wheat and sugarcane cultivation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the area of cultivation of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) No gradual decline in the area under wheat and sugarcane cultivation is discernible in the last three years. However, variations in area brought under cultivation of different crops occur every year due to many factors such as soil and weather conditions, relative profitability and prevailing prices etc. The acreage under two crops in the last three years is as follows:-

(Area Million hectare)

Year	Wheat	Sugarcane
1990-91	24.17	3.69
1991-92	23.26	3.84
1992-93	24.43	3.62

(c) The strategy adopted for increasing production of wheat and sugarcane is to increase the productivity of these crops. In case of wheat, a central sector scheme—Special Foodgrains Production Programme for Wheat is being implemented in the major wheat growing states under which provision is made for distributing certified seeds, micro-nutrients, plant protection equipments, pesticides, etc. As regards sugarcane, the strategy includes increasing availability of disease-free quality seeds, plant protection measures, inter-cropping, improving soil health conditions, improved management of ratoon crops, training of farmers, etc. Besides, under Sugar Development Fund, the Central Government also sanctions grants-in-aid to established institu-

tions for carrying out research aimed at promotion and development of sugar industry and for increasing the production of sugarcane under the project, "Adaptive Research on Sugarcane" entrusted to I.C.A.R.

[*Translation*]

### **Assistance to Gujarat**

\*275. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of assistance given to Gujarat for development of agriculture during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has demanded more assistance during the current year for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The approved Plan outlays under State Sector for Gujarat for 1991-92 and 1992-93 for agriculture and allied sectors were Rs. 120.48 crores and Rs. 126.26 crores respectively. In addition, assistance was provided to the State Government through specific Central and Centrally Sponsored Scheme and short term loans for purchase of inputs.

(b) to (d) The Government of Gujarat has requested for short term loan of Rs. 9 crores for Kharif 93 and Rs. 6 crores for Rabi 1993-94 for purchase of agricultural inputs. Rs. 6.85 crores has been released to the State for Kharif 1993.

### **Fisheries Development**

\*276. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a centrally sponsored scheme for the production of Makhana and development of fisheries in the country especially in Bihar by using modern technique based on the experience of Delta region of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit likely to be derived by the farmers by implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) There is no proposal at present for launching a centrally sponsored scheme for integrated farming of Makhana and fish.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

[*English*]

### **Skins of Birds/Animals**

\*277. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK:  
SHRI TARA CHAND  
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the authorities at the National Zoological Park, New Delhi have recently burnt more than 250 skins of birds and animals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?