

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand the things and ask a question. Nobody pays to the sugar mills; the sugar mills have to sell sugar and give the money to the farmers.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: The hon. Minister has just now condemned for not making payment to sugarcane growers. I would also like to ask him direct as to why payment was not made to sugarcane growers last year though there was President's Rule in the State at that time.

Today, who is responsible for not making payment to sugarcane growers? They have not getting their payment since December. Is the hon. Minister or the Government of U.P. responsible for it? They were also in the Government there.... *(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the intention is that the money is not given. Can we do something to give the money?

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: 99 percent payment of outstanding dues to be paid to the sugarcane growers in U.P. since December, has been made..... *(Interruptions)*....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I object to this kind of interruptions. You first hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: There are three types of sugar mills in U.P. One is the cooperative sector, the second one corporation and third the private sector.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISRA: He owns four mills.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: If the payment have not been made for the last two months, I would ask Shri Mulayam Singh, the Chief Minister of U.P. the reasons for not making payment and also direct him to ensure payment.

Electricity and Water For Fishermen

*82. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishery is treated at par with agriculture;

(b) if so, whether electricity and water are supplied for fishery and fish farming at par with agriculture rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of Central subsidy being given to States for providing electricity and water for agriculturists and fishermen at concessional rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR):(a) to (c) No, Sir. The States are not supplying electricity and water for

fisheries at the same rate as for agriculture.

(d) No Central subsidy is being provided to States for supply of electricity and water for agriculture and fisheries, at concessional rates.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked a basic question whether electricity and water are being supplied for fish farming and agriculture at a uniform rate. The hon. Minister replied that there is no such policy. I would like to state that it is the misfortune of those lakhs of people who live near coastal areas.

MR. SPEAKER: His question is whether the Government is going to formulate any such policy.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: A body named 'MPEDA' works under the Ministry of Commerce where as the subject of deep fishing falls under the Ministry of Food Processing and DFDA and SFDA work under the Ministry of Agriculture and that too under the State Governments. Keeping it in mind, we had made a demand to form separate Ministry for coastal areas for fishing purposes. I would like to know, through you, whether the Government propose to set up a separate Ministry or not and whether any policy is being formulated involving all the concerned.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: We are agreeing with the general thrust of the argument of the hon. Member that there is need for coordinated action at the level of the Government of India for the development

of fishery potential in the country. Various Departments and Ministries of the Government have evolved in different ways historically. It is true that even deep sea fishing is now under the Ministry of Food Processing. Also the major thrust and activities in such a big potential area as aquaculture is basically being handled by the Marine Products and Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce. So, there has been some thinking in the Government of India that there should be a coordinated mechanism preferably under the Ministry of Agriculture, which is traditionally dealing with the fisheries for coordinated development of the fishery sector. However, about organizational form through which this coordinated action can be achieved, the thinking has not been crystallized at the Government of India level.

But we are moving a note for the consideration of the Council of Ministers by which the Department of Fisheries can be strengthened and at least a coordinating mechanism can be set up.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that electricity and water are not provided to fisheries at concessional rates. This document belongs to MPEDA in which it has been written that 1.2 million hectare land is potential for brackish water in the country. Besides, thousands acres of land is available for fresh water fisheries. Only this sector can provide employment to about one crore people and we can earn large sums of foreign exchange. In spite of it, what are the reasons for not providing electricity and water at concessional rates to fisheries. Has the Central Government made any endeavour or is it making any effort in this regard?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Member is correct that there is a tremendous potential for development of aquaculture in our country. In fact India is on the verge of an aquaculture revolution. There it is a substantial investment especially through private entrepreneurs for development of aquaculture. The Department of Agriculture has also been implementing a large number of schemes, so also the Ministry of Commerce and its agency MPEDA. There has been a demand from the aquaculturists that electricity and water supplied to them should be charge at the same rate as per agriculture. This Ministry supports this view. However, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the Government of India does not subsidise the artificially depressed rates of water and electricity supplied to farmers in this country. This is a State subject.

The Central Board of Fisheries, at the Government of India level, has passed a resolution and the hon. Agriculture Minister has written to all the Chief Ministers of States that aquaculture should be treated on par with agriculture with reference to the rates for electricity and water. We are pursuing the matter but it is for the individual States to decide on this policy issue because they have to bear the additional expenditure.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is said in Maharashtra that the people who go for fishing near the sea-shore, go for cultivation in the sea. They are agriculturists. A reservoir is made near sea-shore for the purpose of fishing. A number of times water has to be pumped out to those reservoirs. Fishing is done in potable water. Many times, water is taken from rivers and ponds.

It means that they have to perform the same job as the agriculturists perform. That is why he has explained it in a letter written to me. The fishermen of the entire country are facing this acute problem. The Government should take initiative and constitute a council comprising of Chief Ministers and Ministers of Power to help the fishermen. Will any time bound programme be prepared by putting efforts in this direction?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, in addition to my senior colleague, the Agriculture Minister's writing very strongly to the Chief Ministers, we had emphasised this point at the meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries recently where all the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers were also present. We are pursuing this matter. We feel that this is a concession which can be an advantage and which can be given for the development of aquaculture in the country.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): I would like to remind the agriculture is a state subject. It cannot be done without the consent of the concerned State. We have to pursue the matter in this regard. We will but the try hon. Members should also try. Perhaps we may get success.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is whether fishery is treated on par with agriculture. Naturally, we want to know from the Government what the view of the Government of India is as regards making it equal with agriculture and

in which areas fisheries are getting less benefits than agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: That question has already been replied.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I have another question. Since the country has a vast potential of fisheries, we want to know whether the fisheries development projects are being projected or are being regularised by this department or any other department, whether the Government feel that it is now high time that all these marines etc. are regularised by one agency. Is there any such proposai with the Government?

MR. SPEAKER: Even that question has also been replied, Shri Lokanath Choudhury, if you have followed it, in the first question itself. They are thinking of having some mechanism for coordination.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Than I would like to ask, since when had the Department of Agriculture taken the initiative and what has been the reaction of the State Governments and the Government of India?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have just to tell him what you are trying to have for coordination.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I do not mind answering the first part of the question.

The fisheries sector gets various benefits, from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Commerce as also the Department of Food Processing Industry. Some of these benefits are not available to industry, for example. But in agriculture the income is not subject to income-tax whereas in fisheries the income-tax is still levied. There has been a demand that this should

be waived and we have taken it up with the Finance Department.

As regards the coordinating mechanism, this is a high level policy decision which has to be decided by the Cabinet. We have put all the pros and cons before the Cabinet. I cannot give a time limit, but certainly we are stressing the need for coordination and the urgency in the matter.

Historical Monuments

*83. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dutch-constructed rich and historical monuments of architectural marvel in Tamil Nadu along the shores of Bay of Bengal are being neglected;

(b) whether these monuments have been clandestinely explored by some foreigners;

(c) whether these archival structures of monumental value are now proposed to be sold to private enterprises; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No Sir. The Dutch-constructed historical monuments in Tamil Nadu along the shores of Bay of Bengal, are under central protection and are being preserved and maintained properly.

(b) No clandestine exploration has been carried out by any foreigner at the centrally protected Dutch monuments in Tamil Nadu.