

(d) the proposed scheme of the Government for utilisation of excess production of sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The sugarcane production during current year 1995-96 is estimated around 264 Million Tonnes as against about 271 Million Tonnes during 1994-95 season.

(b) to (d) In order to augment the crushing capacity of the sugar industry in the country, the Government has issued 83 letters of intent for establishment of new sugar factories and 39 for expansion in the existing units during the Eighth Five Year Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97 upto 04-03-1996).

[English]

Damage to Foodgrains

*172. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of rice and wheat lying in the open in the country is rotting in the FCI godowns.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for this state of affairs;

(c) the amount of loss incurred and likely to be incurred due to the above situation; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such situations?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Food Corporation of India has reported that the procured stocks of foodgrains are stored in scientifically designed godowns including cover and plinth (CAP) storage in open. As on 1st February, 1996 38.50 lakh tonnes of wheat and paddy was in CAP/open storage. The FCI has reported that the following are the details of quantity damaged in open due to natural calamities in various regions during 1995 rains :

(Fig in Mts)

1. Punjab	138.00
2. Rajasthan	539.00
3. Haryana	60.00
4. Andhra Pradesh	218.00
5. Kerala	30.16
6. Maharashtra	255.00
7. Madhya Pradesh	18.85
8. Kandla (Gujarat)	200.00
9. Karnataka	3.54
Total	<u>1462.55</u>

(d) actual losses, if any, in respect of above stocks can be ascertained only after final

disposal of the stocks.

(d) The FCI reviews its storage requirements regularly and takes necessary measures to provide scientific storage to the procured foodgrains through various measures like:

(i) FCI constructs its own godowns. During three years (1992-93 to 1994-95) godowns with additional capacity of 3.14 lakh MT were constructed by FCI. Godowns with a total capacity of 1.43 lakh MT were in different stages of construction in 1995-96. FCI creates additional CAP storage capacity as per requirement to accommodate the surplus stocks on temporary basis.

(ii) FCI also resorts to hiring of godowns of CWC, SWC/State Governments and private parties to bridge the storage gap for which full powers are delegated to the Field Officers of FCI.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Rain Water

*173. DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of annual rain water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rain water is being utilised properly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the percentage of rain water being utilised at present; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for maximum utilisation of the rain water?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (f) As per, assessment made by Central Water Commission, the country receives annual precipitation of 4000 billion cubic metres including snow-fall. Of this, the seasonal (monsoon) rainfall (June to September) is of the order of 3000 billion cubic metres. Out of this, the average annual flow available in rivers is around 1869 billion cubic metres. Owing to the topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilisable surface water is assessed at 690 billion cubic metres in addition to the annual replenishable ground water resources which is about 452 billion cubic metres. Full utilisation of rain water is not possible due to evaporation and vegetative (transpiration) losses and due to allowing certain amount of water to flow in the river for maintaining the river regime. The present (1994) utilisation of water (Surface & Ground) is about 606 billion cubic metres i.e. 53% leading 536 billion cubic metres of utilisable water as unutilised.

In the Five year plans emphasis was placed on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the rain water for irrigation and other purposes, as a result of which the total live storage capacity of the Country is at present about 193.2 billion cubic metres. Dams to create additional live storage capacity of 77 billion cubic metres are under various stages of construction. In addition, about 130 billion cubic metres storage is likely to be added through major and medium schemes under consideration. The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies on the National Perspective Plan for water resources development which, inter-alia, envisages transferring water from surplus to Water-short basins by inter-linking of rivers and constructing reservoirs at potential sites. It is estimated that another 220 billion cubic metres of water will be available under National Perspective Plan for use through inter-basin transfers.

[English]

Mineral Water

*174. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently notified rules under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, prescribing standards for the mineral water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the manufacturers selling water in the plastic bottles are not labelling it as mineral water but just as 'water' or 'aqua'?

(d) whether unless bottled water is specifically labelled as mineral water, provisions of the above rules cannot be made applicable and the manufacturers need not conform to the standards;

(e) whether the manufacturers of the bottled water are required to seek any approval or register themselves with any authority either under the Central or the State Government; and

(f) if not, whether the Government propose to bring some control and regulation to this industry and also force manufacturers to correctly label their products to avoid exploitation of the unsuspecting consumers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The detailed standards of mineral water prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The standards of mineral water laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules are applicable only when the product is labelled and sold as mineral water.

(e) In order to ensure that the consumers are not exploited by the manufacturers of fake mineral water, the State Governments have been advised to keep a strict vigil through their enforcement staff on the quality of mineral water manufactured and sold and to take appropriate penal action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 where called for.

(f) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules already prescribe the labelling requirements exhaustively, for packed food articles including mineral water.

STATEMENT

A-32 Mineral Water :

1. Natural Mineral Water means the mineral water obtained directly from potable natural or drilled sources like spring, artesian well, drilled well or from an underground formation and not from public water supply. It shall be free from dirt, foreign matter or any other ingredients injurious to health. It shall not be transported in bulk container for packaging or any other processing before packing.

2. Fortified mineral water means the water derived from any source of potable water which may be blended, treated/fortified with mineral salts.

Mineral water shall be packed in clean and sterile containers.

Mineral water shall also conform to the following standards namely :-

Turbidity (not more than) (NTU)	-5
Total dissolved solids (not more than) mg/l	-1500
pH Value	-6.5-8.5
Copper (Cu) mg/l (not more than)	-1.0
Iron (as Fe) mg/l (not more than)	-0.3
Nitrate (as NO ₃) mg/l (not more than)	-45
Residual Free Chlorine mg/l (not more than)	-0.2
Fluoride (as F) mg/l (not more than)	-1.5
Mercury (as Hg) mg/l (not more than)	-0.001
Cadmium (as Cd) mg/l (not more than)	-0.01
Arsenic (as As) mg/l (not more than)	-0.05
Cyanide	-absent
Lead (as Pb) mg/l (not more than)	-0.05
Mineral Oil	-absent
Chromium (as Cr) mg/l (not more than)	-0.05
Chlorides (as Cl) mg/l (not more than)	-200
Sulphates (SO ₄) mg/l (not more than)	-250