

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, April 7, 1992/Chaitra 18,
1914 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

WELCOME TO THE TANZANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Chief Adam Sapi Mkwawa, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania and the Hon'ble Members of the Tanzanian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble Members of the Delegation are:-

1. Mr. Chediel Y. Mgonja,
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

2. Mr. Juma J. Akukweti, M.P.

3. Mr. Rajab Omar Mbano, M.P.

4. Mrs. Ashura A. Faraji, M.P.

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 5 April, 1992 evening. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, Prime Minister, the National Assembly, the Government and the friendly people of the United Republic of Tanzania.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

**Cane Price arrears outstanding against
Sugar Mills**

+
*572. SHRI RAM NAGINA
MISHRA:
SHRI VILASRAO NAG-
NATHRAO GUNDE-
WAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to
State:

(a) the quantity of sugarcane supplied
by the farmers to the sugar mills in U.P.;

(b) the price of sugarcane being paid to the farmers in U.P. in the current crushing season,

(c) the number of sugar mills in the private sector in the state and the sugarcane price arrears outstanding as on February 29, 1992,

(d) the total amount paid to the farmers by the sugar mills under the Cooperative Sector and the amount still outstanding

against those mills as on the above date, State-wise, and

(e) the instructions issued by the Union Government to the State Governments in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT

(a) As per reports received from 104 sugar factories, a quantity of 205.0 lakh tonnes of sugarcane had been crushed by the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh upto 29.2.92

(b) The sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh have reported that they are paying cane price as fixed by the State Government as given below

| | Ordinary varieties (Rs./quintal) | Specified Early maturing varieties |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| (i) At the factory gate | 45/- | 48/- |
| (ii) At outstation centres | 42/- | 45/- |

(c) 43 installed sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh are in the private sector. As per reports received till yet from 25 of these factories, Rs. 80.51 crores cane price arrears was outstanding as on 29.2.1992. Reports from the remaining factories are yet to be received.

(d) Reports regarding cane price paid and the amount outstanding as on 29.2.1992

have been received till yet from 141 factories of the cooperative sector. State-wise details are given at Annexure. Reports from the remaining co-operative sugar factories are yet to be received.

(e) Instructions are issued by the Central Government from time to time requesting the State Governments to ensure timely payment to cane price dues.

ANNEXURE

State wise details regarding cane price paid and the amount outstanding as on 29.2.1932 in respect of 141 co-operative sugar factories

| S No | State | No of factories reported | As on 29.2.1932 | |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Cane Price paid (Rs Crores) | Amount Outstanding |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Punjab | 9 | 59.83 | 20.11 |
| 2 | Haryana | 9 | 59.78 | 24.24 |
| 3 | Rajasthan | 1 | 0.59 | 1.53 |
| 4 | Uttar Pradesh | 10 | 94.70 | 37.92 |
| 5 | Madhya Pradesh | 1 | 0 | 2.80 |
| 6 | Gujarat | 3 | 5.34 | 1.12 |
| 7 | Maharashtra | 67 | 457.63 | 38.16 |
| 8 | Assam | 1 | 1.26 | 0.17 |
| 9 | Andhra Pradesh | 11 | 29.97 | 3.57 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 11 | 64.51 | 18.58 |

| S. No. | State | No of factories reported | As on 29.12.1992 | |
|--------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Cane Price paid (Rs./Crores) | Amount Outstanding |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | 10 | 51.00 | 9.48 |
| 12. | Kerala | 1 | 2.01 | - |
| 13. | Orissa | 1 | 0.31 | 3.57 |
| 14. | Pondicherry | 1 | 2.74 | 0.87 |
| 15. | Goa | 1 | 3.28 | 1.17 |
| Total | | 141 | 901.66 | 170.14 |

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: First of all, the hon. Minister has not given me a proper reply as he is not in possession of requisite information. Secondly, I had asked about the quantity of sugarcane crushed by sugarmills in U.P. Alongwith this, I would also like to know the quantity of sugarcane crushed in 'Kolhus' and crushers, apart from those crushed by sugar mills. There is no mention of this any where in the Report. You know very well that in Uttar Pradesh, more than half of the total sugarcane produce goes to 'Kolhus' and crushers for the purpose of crushing. In your reply, you have said that the Sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh are paying cane price as fixed by the State Government at the rate of Rs. 45/- per quintal, but you may be aware of the fact that the 'Kolhu' and crusher owners pay the farmers only Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 per quintal, although they receive more than half of the State's total sugarcane produce. With regard to my question on the outstanding sugarcane price arrears the hon. Minister has stated that he is yet to receive the details from all the mills but as per reports received so far from 25 of these factories, the outstanding cane price arrears were to the tune of Rs. 80.51 crore. Now out of a total 105 sugar mills in the State, 43 are in the Public Sector, 35 in the Cooperative Sector and 39 in the private sector. The outstanding arrears of these mills to the farmers are to the tune of billions of Rupees, as a result of which the life of the sugarcane farmers in the State has become extremely miserable.

Through you, I would like to know from the Government the amount it receives from Uttar Pradesh in the form of Central Cess. Sir, mine is a very important question. Therefore, please give me a patient hearing. I would like to know whether the Government will stop collecting excise duty and pay the arrears to the farmers. Alongwith it, under the existing provisions of the law, the mill owners are bound to pay the interest on the outstanding amount, alongwith the arrears

to the farmers. Far from it, the farmers do not get even the prices for the sugarcane.

MR. SPEAKER: If you ask so many questions in one go, then your main question will get lost.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Through you, I would like to know whether the Central Government will ensure payment of billions of Rupees of outstanding arrears of the State's farmers by exempting the excise duty on a priority basis?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was in Hindi. Therefore, I would like to get an answer in Hindi. It is my right as well as that of yours.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like this. You can get the interpretation.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I am sorry, Sir, I do not know Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, You can speak in English.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Sir, I have received information of only about 59 factories. Out of 105, 104 factories have gone into production. We have got information of only 59 factories.

In U.P. the production of sugarcane in the year 1990-91 was little more than 103 million tonnes. Out of that 31 per cent goes to the sugar factories.

Then, Sir, about the outstanding arrears, as I have told, as on 29.2.92 we have got the figure of Rs. 153.57 crores. Whereas in the State of U.P. the outstanding arrear of last season is only about Rs. 0.54 crores that means about Rs. 51 lakh. This is the figure for the year 1990-91. We have not received the full information for the current season. We are collecting it. As soon as we get the

information we will supply it to the hon. Member

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA Sir, the farmers in Uttar Pradesh do not get the rates fixed by the State Government due to the abundance of sugarcane in the State. More than half of the total production is sold at overrates of Rs 25-30 per quintal to 'Kolhus' or the production of unrefined sugar. Keeping this fact in mind, the State Government has requested the Centre to grant more licences for sugar units in the State. Many old sugar mills in the State which have a recovery rate of less than 12 per cent are running in losses to the tune of crores of Rupees. I would like to specifically mention about the condition of Sugar mills in the Deoria district. There are 14 mills which are very old with obsolete machinery. Out of them, 3 units have been granted licences to increase their capacity but due to shortage of funds they are not able to do so. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of new sugar mills for which the Uttar Pradesh Government has sought licence, and specifically the number of licences granted for new sugar mills in the private sector in Deoria district. Along with this I would also like to know whether the Centre proposes to allocate funds from the Sugar Development Fund to those Mills, especially the one at Lakshminagar, Betalpur and Bhatni in Deoria district which have been provided license for expansion, but are not able to do so for want of funds. Lastly I would also like to know the number of licences, the Centre proposes to grant for new sugar mills in U.P.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI Sir, regarding the payments made to the sugar cane growers, the Government of India has fixed a statutory Minimum Price (SMP). We can compel the factories to pay that minimum price. State Government has also fixed a

State Advised Price (SAP) and it is the duty of the State Government to see that the cane growers are paid promptly.

About the number of licences given, I need a separate notice.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA Mr Speaker, Sir, while the Government quails about collecting the outstanding arrears from farmers, there is no provision to ensure the payment of arrears to sugarcane farmers by sugar mill owners. The Government should have a clear cut policy in this regard.

MR SPEAKER No, No. Please take your seat.

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Mr Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the Sugar mill owners in Maharashtra owe Rs. 38.16 crores to sugarcane farmers in the State, while those in U.P. owe Rs. 37.92 crore to the State's farmers. By when will these outstanding arrears, which the mill owners have usurped, be paid to the farmers and what steps the Government is taking to expedite the payment?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI Sir, I have taken up the matter with the Chief Ministers. It is the responsibility of the state Government to ensure that the cane growers are paid their dues. I have myself written to the Chief Ministers not once but three times. I wrote to them on 6.8.91 and then on 11.11.91 and again recently on 1.4.92. I took up the matter with the Chief Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKAS NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask one more question.

MR SPEAKER No, No Mr Mohan Singh

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Mr Speaker, Sir It is a very important question pertaining to Maharashtra Therefore, please allow me

MR SPEAKER No, No The member whose name appears second can ask only one question Therefore please take your seat It is not permitted

SHRI MOHAN SINGH Mr Speaker Sir the hon Minister has said that only 31 per cent of the total sugarcane production in U P goes to sugar mills and our friend Shri Ram Nagra Mahra highlighted the miserable condition of the State's Sugar Mills I would like to know from the hon Minister the number of old mills identified in the last three to five years for modernisation expansion and enhancement of capacity (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER This question is a sequel to the Supplementary question not the main question

SHRI MOHAN SINGH It is related to the main question His question was about the sugar mills (*Interruptions*)

How sugarcane should be crushed (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You haven't gone through the main question You are asking without understanding the question

[*English*]

The main question is about the payment and not about the expansion

SHRI TARUN GOGOI You give a separate notice for that

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI Has the Government assessed the degree of linkage of the

sugarcane production with the sugarcane price and accumulated arrears due to the farmers, if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Central Government to improve the sugarcane production keeping in view the overall area and prices?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI We have taken a lot of measures for the improvement of sugarcane area also As regards sugarcane arrears it is mainly because of the State advised prices the State advised prices are much higher than our statutory minimum prices

We can compel factories to pay only the statutory minimum prices and there is a provision also under Clause 3 of the Sugarcane Control Order where we can compel them to pay and in case they fail to pay the price within 14 days the factory has to pay 15 per cent interest per annum

Contraceptive Bills

*573 DR RAMESH CHAND TOMAR Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether some batches of the Mala N and Mala D contraceptive pills have been found to be discoloured or ineffective

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) the number of such cases reported during the last three years and till date and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

The Oral Contraceptive Pills (Mala N