

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No,
Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) Constraint of resources.

New Rail Lines in Bilaspur

246. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
state:

(a) the names of the places selected for construction of new railway lines and electrification of existing lines in Bilaspur division of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Construction of a new railway line from Dallirajhara to Jagdalpur (235 kms) has been identified and proposal has been sent to the Planning Commission.

Electrification work on the remaining portions of the on-going project Bilaspur-Katni including Anuppur-Bishrampur namely New Katni-Chandia Road and Boridand-Chirimiri is in progress.

(b) Regarding new line, target date will be fixed up once Planning Commission's approval is received and work is actually approved by Parliament.

The electrification work of the above section is likely to be completed by March, 1995.

Food Corporation of India

247. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up offices/godowns of the Food Corporation of India in those districts of Bihar where these do not exist;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c). At present, there is no proposal to set up more district offices in Bihar as the network of existing offices is considered sufficient for looking after the Public Distribution work. However, a proposal is under consideration for establishing FCI godowns at Kathiar and Hatia also. A review has also been undertaken to identify locations in South Bihar for establishing more godowns for meeting PDS requirements.

Sugar Mills

248. SHRI ARJUN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI HARI KEWAL
PRASAD:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in public sector, private sector and cooperative sector in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more sugar mills in the State;

(c) the number of sugar mills in each sector running in loss and profit respectively;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make sick mills viable;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to privatise those sugar mills which are running in loss in the cooperative sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) There are 35 installed sugar factories in the public sector, 44 in the private sector and 31 in Cooperative sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh (as on 30.6.1994).

(b) Yes, Sir. As on 30.6.94, the Central Government have issued 25 letters of intent during the current sugar year for setting up of new sugar mills in the State.

(c) Government does not maintain profit and lose accounts in respect of sugar mills.

(d) Sugar Mills have to themselves prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down.

(e) and (f); The decision in this regard has to be taken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Consumer Protection Act 1986

249. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA): Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Consumer Fora want more teeth' appearing in patriot dated June 9, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of amendments likely to be made in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(c) the time by which the amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). On the basis of recommendations made in the XVIth meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council, the Central Government in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, has constituted a Working Group to examine the need to bring about changes in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder in the light of experience gained so far and the difficulties which have arisen in many cases as a result of judicial pronouncements. ■