

be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

"Environmental Management of Chilka"

977. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the project on "Sustainable Ecological Preservation and Environmental Management of Chilka" sent by the Government of Orissa for provision of financial assistance by the European Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa has submitted a project on "Sustainable Ecological Preservation and Environmental Management of Chilka" at a total cost of Rs. 60 crores over a period of five years for assistance under bilateral programme. The main components of the project include improvement of water quality and salinity grader lake periphery management to check siltation; lake resource development; weed control management; avifauna; common property resource development and management with community participation; employment generation schemes; infrastructure and institutional development.

(c) The project proposal is under examination for provision of financial assistance by the European Community.

Classification of Feed Supplements

978. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the live stock feed manufactures Association of India has been pleading for classification of feed supplements to be included in Classification-23 of HSN. (Harmonised System of Nomenclature) so as to make available animal feed at reasonable prices to the farmers to increase the milk production and cattle stock; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation is being examined in consultation with the other Ministries/organisation concerned.

Public Distribution System in Hilly Areas

979. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Public Distribution System (PDS) has come to a stand still in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh for the past three months;

(b) whether the common men is suffering immensely because of non-availability of essential commodities in these areas; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate and proper functioning of Public Distribution System in hilly areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The operational responsibility of implementing the Public Distribution System rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Recently the Central Government had requested the Government of Uttar Pradesh to monitor supply of essential commodities under PDS, particularly in view of festival season, so that consumers do not experience any difficulty in obtaining these commodities. The State Government has reported easy availability of commodities in the entire Uttar Pradesh. They have also apprised that they are keeping day to day watch over the availability situation of PDS commodities. The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has not brought any specific problem of PDS in the hilly areas.

[Translation]

Prices of Onions

980. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onions have increased manifold in the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of onions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The prices of onion have been rising during the last few months but are still ruling at a lower level over that of the corresponding period of the last year. The wholesale price index of onion as on 19.11.94 was 14 percent lower than the corresponding index last year. The price situation of onion at present is satisfactory and is within the reach of the consumer.

(b) Rise in onion prices is mainly attributed to the late arrival of kharif onion due to continuous rains in mid-September, 1994 in most of the producing areas including Maharashtra and damage of the transplanted crop.

(c) In order to arrest the rising trend in the prices of onion, the Government suspended the export of the commodity during October, 22 to November, 3, 1994.

[English]

Sugar Mills

981. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the reasons due to which the sugar mills have