

(c) and (d). Government of Orissa have not submitted any proposal to this Ministry for clearance. They have informed that the trees were standing on revenue land. Felling of such trees does not require clearance, from the forestry angle, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Passenger Amenities

2280. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds budgeted for improvement of passenger amenities have not been fully spent during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The surrender of funds in the last five years had been due to unforeseen circumstances like delay in availability of site, failure of contractors, non-availability of material, climatic factors etc.

However, in 1993-94, all out efforts were made to ensure that there were no surrenders under the Plan Head 'Passengers and Other Railway Users' Amenities and as a result of the same the allocation under the Plan Head was fully utilised.

{Translation}

Sugar Mill

2281. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a Sugar Mill at Mankhas village in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh is pending with the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;

(c) whether there is any such provision under which distance of 2.5 km. between setting up of sugar mills can be reduced in view of dense cultivation of sugarcane;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have taken a decision regarding setting up a sugar mill at Mankhas village in the State;

(e) if so, when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (f). 5 proposals had been received through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry for the establishment of a new sugar factory at Mankhas, District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have recommended the setting up of a new sugar mill at the aforesaid location.

All these proposals were considered by the Screening Committee at its meeting held on 1.9.93. The recommendations/comments of the Ministry of Food have been sent to the Ministry of Industry for consideration by the Licensing Committee.

As per the licensing policy guidelines announced by Government vide Press Note No. 16 (1991 Series) dated 8.11.91, the distance criterion of 25 Kms. could, however, be relaxed to 15 Kms. in special cases