

(a) whether complaints have been received during the years 1988 and 1989 regarding poor quality of essential commodities supplied through the Fair Price Shops in Punjab;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received so far, year-wise, and

(c) the action taken to redress the complaints so received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The Central Government supplies specified essential commodities conforming to the prescribed standards to the States and UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System.

As the State Governments/U.T. Administrations, including Punjab, look after the actual distribution of these commodities to the consumers through fair price shops complaints if any, regarding quality of items supplies are normally received by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations and remedial action taken by them.

Acquisition of Private land by Government of Maharashtra

2237. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has enacted a legislation to acquire private forests of the persons who have more than 12 hectares of land;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact as per the provision of above Act thousands of hectares of land is released on appeal of persons who have less than 12 hectares but for want of Central Government approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the cases are pending with the Central Government;

(c) whether a comprehensive proposal for 7,598 hectares of poor Adivasi farmers land with reference No. PRF/1385/9290/CR-184/F-10 is pending for two years; and

(d) the reasons for delay and action taken to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). An area of 73,894 hectares of land was restored to the former owners by the Government of Maharashtra between 1978 and 1980. An area of about 1.5 lakh hectares could not be released due to the passage of Forest (Conservation), Act, in 1980. A proposal was received from Maharashtra Government in 1982 for approval of about 2,196 hectares of land for release to the former owners which was approved by the Central Government. Another proposal for release of about 7598 hectares of land to the former owners was received in 1988 which was subsequently revised to about 8895 hectares. This proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

Sub-Committee Report on Expansion and Modernisation of Sick Sugar Units

2238. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-Committee was constituted on the rehabilitation and modernisation of sick sugar mills in the country;

(b) whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;