

disposal of distillery effluents into inland surface water is 30 milligram per litre as was earlier notified in 1987. Earlier, the distillery effluent was allowed to be used after primary treatment for irrigation purposes. This provision has been withdrawn vide notification in April 1996, to avoid any adverse impacts on surface and ground water.

(b) to (d). A research project has been assigned to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to ascertain the effects of distillery effluent on crops/land/ground water due to such effluents for irrigation purposes. The finding are awaited.

Procurement Policy

589. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would review the procurement policy keeping in view the less procurement of foodgrains particularly wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (c). The procurement policy of the government has several components like minimum support price, quality specifications, imposition of levy on millers/traders etc. While no major shift in the procurement policy under the minimum support price operations is contemplated, keeping in view the relevant factors, the minimum support price of wheat for the 1996-97 rabi crop, to be marketed in the 1997-98 rabi marketing season, has been increased by Rs.35, from Rs.380 to Rs.415 per quintal. It is expected that this attractive increase in the MSP will enthruse the farmers to produce more wheat.

Reservation for Dalit Christians

590. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer the reply given on July 25, 1996 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1796 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to extend the reservation benefits to the Dalit Christians; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity are at present eligible for reservation benefits applicable to OBCs by virtue of their inclusion in the Central lists of OBCs in relation to twelve States/UTs. The matter of recognition of Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity as Scheduled Castes is under consideration. Such recognition would entitle them to reservation benefits applicable to the Scheduled Castes.

Milk Production in Kerala

591. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for Central and World Bank assistance to increase the milk production in Kerala keeping in view the gap between production and requirement of the milk; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). Kerala state was covered under the Operation Flood II & III projects which were implemented as a central sector Plan scheme with the assistance of the World Bank and the DEO. There is also a North Kerala Dairy Project that is being implemented with the assistance of the Swiss Development Corporation.

High Level Review Committee

592. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No.2124 replied on July 30, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the High Level Review Committee has since taken any decision according to the terms of reference laid down therein;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to give these awards from the ensuing Republic Day or Independence Day; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e). The High Level Review Committee, constituted to go into the guidelines for the Padma Awards and certain

other aspects, has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration by the Government. Further necessary action in the matter will be taken in due course.

Grant-in-aid to Non-Government Organisations

593. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of non-government organisations and institutions in Bihar who applied for recurring and non-recurring grants-in-aid for Rs. five lakhs and more than ten lakhs during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) details of the organisations and institutions out of the above whose applications were rejected; and

(c) the reasons for rejecting the same alongwith breakup thereof, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sugarcane Development Cess

594. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sugarcane Development Cess has been collected at the rate of Rs. 14/- per quintal by the Government;

(b) if so, the amount collected during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether the amount given in the form of loan for various items from this fund during the past years has been recovered; and

(d) if so, the amount of recovered loan deposited in this fund during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess at the rate of Rs. 14/- per quintal is being collected on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India.

(b) Amount collected during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Collected
1993-94	165.47
1994-95	143.64
1995-96	172.40

(c) and (d). The amount of loan disbursed in 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Disbursed
1993-94	115.28
1994-95	63.53
1995-96	55.06

The amount deposited in the fund after recovery during years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:

(In Rupees)

Year	Total
1993-94	47,61,97,815
1994-95	48,18,00,561
1995-96	34,31,23,830

Drought in Madhya Pradesh

595. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the situation arising out of drought in Madhya Pradesh particularly in the Chhatisgarh region; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to provide relief so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL & HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh/based on preliminary assessment, 21 Talukas of 8 districts in the State are facing serious drought conditions.

(b) Madhya Pradesh has a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs.51.08 crores for 1996-97 for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Three instalments of CRF amounting to Rs.28.73 crores have already been released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the current year.

Tampering of Electricity and Water Bills of NDMC

596. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has unearthed a multi-crore embezzlement scam in the New Delhi Municipal Council involving the tampering of electricity and water bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof.