

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of applicants in the waiting list as on 01.04.1996 for telephones in Allahabad District category wise is given below :

OYT (G)	N-OYT (G)	N-OYT (S)
16	2611	41

(b) All the connections under each of the categories mentioned in (a) are likely to be given during 1996-97.

[Translation]

Sugarcane Growers

66. SHRI SATYAIDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties presently faced by the sugarcane growers in the country,

(b) if so, the policy of the Union Government to assist the sugarcane growers,

(c) whether sugarcane growers have to burn their crop this year since sugar mills refused to lift their product and if so, the loss caused to farmers and the country as a result thereof, and

(d) the assistance Government rendered to the sugarcane growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) To assist the sugarcane growers for increasing the productivity, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS) in 21 important sugarcane growing states on the pattern of 75:25 sharing basis between GOI and implementing States. The assistance under the scheme is given for critical inputs, such as, seeds, farm implements, drip irrigation, production technology demonstration farmers' training and strengthening of bio-pesticides and tissue culture units

(c) and (d) There were incidence of burning of Sugarcane crop by farmers in some parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and UP States

In order to render assistance to the sugarcane growers in the matter of clearance of their cane price dues by the sugar factories the following measures have been taken:

(i) Increase in statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane from Rs 39.10 to Rs 42.50 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery of 85%.

(ii) Grant of late crushing incentives to sugar factories at 75% on production of sugar achieved between 15.4.1996 and 31.5.96 and 100% on production achieved by crushing cane between 1.6.96 and 30.9.96, as against the normal freesale quota of 60%.

(iii) Creation of 5 lakh tonnes of buffer stock of sugar for a period of 1 year w.e.f. 10.1.96.

(iv) A quantity of 10 Lakh tonnes of freesale sugar has been notified for export.

(v) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines to the banks to enable the sugar factories to draw more credit from the banks.

The concerned Ministry in the Government is being requested to make some inbuilt systems for crushing all the sugarcane so that there is no repetition of burning of Sugarcane.

Agricultural Policy

67. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted the draft Agricultural Policy which was laid on the Table of the House on May 14, 1993; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final Agricultural Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The draft Agriculture Policy which was laid on the Table of the House on May 14, 1993 is under finalization keeping in view the suggestions made by the Members of Parliament and concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India

[Translation]

On-Going Power Projects

68. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the total number of power projects being implemented in India with the foreign assistance,

(b) the present position of each project,

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be provided for each project,

(d) the number of projects out of them lagging behind,

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the loss likely to be suffered due to delay therein?