

Resources. If you wish, I can convey your point to the Department of Irrigation. A joint meeting of the Central and State Governments can be held. We are concerned with providing relief. We are ready to sit together and discuss the things.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Did you have a meeting? Unless you know the problem of Water Resources Ministry, how will you solve the problem? This flood has become a chronic problem. It is not a flood by natural water. Everyday Bangladesh water comes. Tista Canal is not complete. That is why this flood is there in North Bengal.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Hon. Member, flood is not under me. If you are affected by flood, I would come to your assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : Flood is not under the Minister; only cyclone is under the Minister!

11.19½ hrs.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM IRAN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Ali Akbar Nateq Noori, Speaker of the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other Members of the Iranian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are :-

1. H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh
2. H.E. Mr. Yahya Ale-Ishag
3. H.E. Mr. Seyed Reza Taqvi
4. H.E. Mr. Javad Ardeshir Larjani
5. H.E. Mr. Mohamand Baqer Nevisi
6. H.E. Mr. Ahad Qazaei
7. H.E. Mrs. Marzieh Sediqi
8. H.E. Mr. Ale' Eddin Broujerdi
9. H.E. Mr. Alinaqi Khamoushi
10. Mr. Karbasian
11. Mr. Abrishami

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 25 November, 1996. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the

President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Many persons have died in Madhya Pradesh due to starvation ... (Interruptions) In Chhatisgarh, thousands of families are facing this problem.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can bring it later. We are having a full debate after this.

(Interruptions)

11.21 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS - Contd.

[Translation]

Relief to New Sugar Mills

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*62. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new sugar mill owners were given seven years relief on the levy sugar by the Government under their incentive scheme;

(b) whether the Government have withdrawn the said relief;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to review their decision;

(e) if so, the time by which the mill owners are likely to be given the said relief again; and

(f) 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 (f). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) To facilitate augmentation of the Licensed capacity the new sugar mills licensed during 7th Plan Period (1.10.1985 to 30.9.1990) were given relief on the levy sugar for a period of 5 years and 7 years respectively depending upon whether the sugar mill was situated in High Recovery Area or Other Recovery Area. Thereafter, new sugar mills licensed upto 31st

March, 1994 are being given relief on levy sugar under Sugar Incentive Scheme announced on 10th March, 1993 for 8 years in High Recovery Area and 10 years in Other recovery Area.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) to (f). Question does not arise.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the relief on levy was being given to the sugar mills licensed till March 31, 1994. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether relief under sugar Incentive scheme will also be provided to new mills which have been given license during 1995 and 1996? If so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, incentive has been given till March, 1994. I have already stated in my reply that the period of incentive given to the sugar mills licensed during 1.10.85 to 30.9.90 situated in high recovery area where sugar content is more than 10 percent has been revised upto 8 years and for low recovery area, upto 10 years. Thus, all the factories licensed till March 31, 1994 have been given incentive and outstanding amount is still being paid. There is no new proposal at present.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister knows very well that the sugar mills generally start crushing sugarcane in the first week of October every year but due to arbitrary stance adopted by the Indian Sugar Mills Association, the crushing of sugarcane this year started on November 22, 1996. As a result, sugarcane farmers could not sow wheat in their fields. Due to this arbitrariness, not only the farmers but the country has also suffered. The mill owners created hurdles in growing 20 million more wheat. The hon. Governor had fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs 76 per quintal. The mill owners have made up their mind not to pay the prescribed price to the farmers as they do not write the price on slips issued to farmers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would sanction vacuum pan to small Khandsari units to quell the arbitrariness shown by the Sugar Mill Association? If so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned about opening sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. About 117 sugar mills should have been opened by now. However, 61 sugarmills have started functioning. Only yesterday, I wrote to the Governor of the State to take steps for opening the remaining sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. I think the remaining sugar mills will be opened soon. So far as installation of vacuum Pan is concerned, I will consider the suggestions given by the hon. Members.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of sugar mills which had put up their claims for incentives in 1994 and the number out of them particularly those in Orissa, which have got incentive.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I have clearly stated in my reply that the question regarding Orissa should be asked separately and I shall send the information in this regard to the hon. Member.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. ble Minister has replied to the question asked by my friend. But the important point is that they are giving relief to mills while Rs.500 crore are still to be paid to sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh. The Kanpur Sugar Works and Champaran Sugar Works fall under his Ministry. At present, three sugar mills of Champaran Sugar Works are not functioning. The hon. Minister has written a letter to the hon. Governor. I would like to know whether Kanpur Sugar Works under this Ministry will start functioning or not because Rs.17 crore are outstanding against it? Further, when the other three sugar mills of Champaran in Bihar, which do not fall under his Ministry, will start functioning and the time by which the sugar farmers will get their dues.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the three sugar mills come under the Department of Textiles. Therefore, I have already referred the matter to them. It does not fall under the jurisdiction of my Department...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs.500 crore are to be paid to farmers and the Kanpur Sugar Works has to make a payment of Rs.17 crore. I want to know whether the outstanding amount will be paid or not and whether new sugar mills will be opened or not?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is not related to the main question. It is not a question regarding making payment of sugarcane, but a question of providing incentive. Whatever questions the hon. Members ask, I will reply to them in the light of the facts available with me. It is not related to the main question. I have already told that the Department of Textiles looks after the management...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Rs.500 crore are still to be paid...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : You had called my name...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough, please...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am making a submission to you. When we ask a question of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, he says 'cyclone' is under his charge, 'flood' is not. When we ask a question of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, he says: "Sugar mills are under the Ministry of Textiles and, therefor, I cannot answer. I can answer about sugar production. "This is a very real difficulty. The Members will ask all possible questions. How are we to find an answer?"

Otherwise, the Government will slip away from every possible question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Jaswant Singh is a senior and sagacious Member. I would like to tell him that management aspect of all the three textile mills of Champaran and the mills in Kanpur is looked after by the Department of Textiles but the sugarmills are controlled by my Ministry. The Ministry of Food looks after the matter relating to release of free sale sugar. Further, imposition of levy is also taken care of by the Ministry of Food. The management comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Textiles... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he had appointed the Chairman and he is misleading the House... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down when I am standing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am on my legs.

I think hon. Member Shri Jaswant Singh has raised a very valid point. As far as practicable, the Ministers should have information for the questions which are relevant. If they do not have the question/answers with them, I think they can anticipate and collect the information from their sister Departments. If they do not have anything, they can always collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Members. That is what we normally do.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : As per the sugar procurement and distribution policy, some percentage of sugar is released for sale in the open Market and the remaining is distributed under Public Distribution system. I would like to suggest that as wheat is distributed through dealers after it is supplied to district headquarters by the Government, sugar should also be supplied to far-flung areas in the similar way. You have godowns for wheat at the level of district headquarters, sugar-cane also be stocked in those godowns. Due to this policy, the people living in hilly areas and far-flung areas like Guraiya, Maulaband, Tikwal in Kashmir Valley will get sugar easily. Will the hon. Minister bring necessary changes in the policy or find a way out which may help common people in getting sugar easily and controlling the black marketing of sugar in the open market?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : In respect of the question raised by the hon'ble Member I would like to say that under the Public Distribution System, sugar is distributed at a standard price of Rs.9.05 per kg throughout the country... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that sugar is being sold at a rate of Rs.16 per kg in Uttar Pradesh... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : If you do not want to listen to me it is better that I take my seat.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the reply being given by the Minister

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : First, I would like to say that today the price of sugar in open market is 60 paise less than the rates prevailing some days back and I presume that with the release of sugar quota in free market, the prices of sugar will come down by Re.1 per kg. So far as marketing of sugar is concerned, I would like to say that sale of sugar under Public Distribution System is under the control of State Governments. The Union Government is only responsible for allocation of sugar quota and the distribution is the responsibility of State Governments... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : The price of sugar in open market in Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 16 per kg and at present, Uttar Pradesh is under the rule of Union Government... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The hon'ble Member can give me in writing. If he has any complaint regarding hilly region and I will certainly write to the State Governments for inquiry into the matter... (Interruptions)

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : You have allotted a subject for Zero Hour but there is no Zero Hour today... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : After Shri Ramalingam asks the question, I will allow you

(Interruptions)

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only in the private mills but in the cooperative mills also lot of sugar costing crores of rupees is lying in the mills. The Central Government has not given any quota and so they are not able to sell or release it. The mills are not able to deliver the money to the sugarcane producers. Now, in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh lots of farmers are waiting for the money after sending the sugarcane to the mills. The next season of cutting is also coming.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Yes Sir, Is the Ministry going to give any special quota to the mills to take all the stock that is lying with the cooperative mills and private mills? Is there any idea to have an emergency release now? Will the hon. Minister answer the question?

MR. SPEAKER : He will answer.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this question is not related to the main question but for the information of the House, I would like to say that departmental Committee has been constituted, which has three Members. This Committee is looking into this matter and I would like to add that this time, there is not sugar mill against which payment of farmers is due and from which free sale sugar has not been released. We have started releasing quota in accordance with the production capacity of sugar mill. I will send the list of the sugar mills along with the information regarding quota released to them, if the hon'ble Member wants to get detailed information.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was to be taken up during Zero Hour but as a question has come up on this subject, it should be discussed. I would like to make two three points in this regard. I have already apprised the hon'ble Minister and also written a letter to him that payment of farmers is due on Gauri Bazar Sugar Mill for the last three years. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had given an assurance in this august House that orders for 50 percent payment of dues were being issued but so far, payment has not been made. Rs.46 crores are due on sugar mills in Pundrauna and Deoria districts. It is a serious issue and we seek your permission for a discussion on this subject under rule 193.

In respect of the natural calamity in Andhra Pradesh, I would like to say that on this issue we all are with the hon'ble Minister. It is not going to help the farmers if you pass on the responsibility to the Textile Minister and he passes on to Agricultural Minister and then Agricultural Minister will try to again pass it on to you. It is not an ordinary thing because the Government have purchased sugarcane from the farmers and no payment has been made to them even after lapse of three years. I would like to know as to when this payment which is due for more than two years on sugar mills is likely to be made and by when the rest of payments would be made? Whether any time-bound programme is likely to be formulated for it?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told that this question does not relate to the main question but for the information of the Members I would like to tell that Rs.900 crores were due on mills in Uttar Pradesh and out of Rs.450 crores have been paid during last two months and the process is on for the payment of the remaining balance.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may please consider this issue to be discussed under rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give notice for it.

[English]

Drought in Orissa

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*63. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that several districts of Orissa have faced a severe drought situation during the current year particularly after the month of June, 1996;

(b) if so, the names of districts adversely affected along with the loss of lives, crops etc. suffered in each district;

(c) whether the Government have provided any Central assistance for these districts to meet the problem during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(e) whether any request for the enhancement of such assistance has been received; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). According to reports received from the Government of Orissa, based on the Crop cutting assessments, 13664 villages in 20 districts of the State have sustained crop loss of 50% and above the to inadequate rains. An Annexure indicating the numbers of such villages in the 20 districts is enclosed. In the remaining 8 districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Puri, Sambalpur & Sundargarh, 8306 villages have sustained crop loss of 50% and above, on the basis of eye estimation. In respect of reported deaths the State Government has been requested to enquire into the matter.

(c) and (d). Government of India have already released its entire Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs.36.76 crores for 1996-97 including advance release of the 4th instalment of Central share of Rs.9.19 crores. Government of India do not make any district-wise distribution of the CRF allocations. Following the visit of Prime Minister, more funds have been released for poverty alleviation and employment generation purposes.

(e) and (f). Government of Orissa have submitted a Memorandum indicating requirement of Rs.585.80