

convened separately by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, but the implementation of the provisions of Vth and VIth Schedule in the State are discussed in the annual meetings with the States' representatives.

(c) The representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment interact regularly with the MPs of tribal areas in the various Parliamentary Committees constituted for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Assistance for Sugarcane Production

6033. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Union Government for assistance for the augmentation of sugarcane Production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) A total number of 179 applications were received from sugar units located in Uttar Pradesh (U.P) State, during the period 1986-87 to 1997-98, for grant of long-term loans from the Sugar Development Fund for financing various activities relating to sugarcane development. These were recommended by the State Government. 92 of these applications have been sanctioned for an aggregate amount of Rs. 120.7 crores, while 78 applications have been rejected/withdrawn. Nine applications are under scrutiny.

Apart from the above, 118 applications were directly received from sugar units located in U.P. for short-term loans for purchase of inputs for sugarcane development (the procedure does not require the recommendation of the State Government). Out of these 38, have been approved for an aggregate amount of Rs. 21.3 crores, while 50 have been rejected/withdrawn. 30 of the applications are pending scrutiny.

A decision is expected to be taken on the pending applications within a period of three months.

Tenure of CGHS Cards for Pensioner's Beneficiaries

6034. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CGHS cards of pensioner's are being renewed;

(b) if so, the likely time to be taken for giving new cards after submission of forms and old cards;

(c) the reasons for delay in renewing cards submitted in February, 1998; and

(d) the time by which these cards are likely to be renewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No specific time period has been fixed for issue of new CGHS cards to the pensioners. However, the pensioners are not being denied CGHS facilities with their old cards.

Welfare of Minorities

6035. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken or proposed to be taken strengthen the 15-points programme for the welfare of minorities; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Fifteen point programme for the Welfare of Minorities is being implemented throughout the country. As a part of monitoring process, State/UT's Government's are required to submit half yearly reports to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Government reminds defaulting States/UT's from time to time. The review of relementation is done at state level by the Chief Minister/Chief Secretary and at a district level by District Magistrate/District Collector.

Incentive to Co-operative Sugar Mills

6036. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for providing incentives to the co-operative sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location-wise sugar mills in Maharashtra;