

that within a specified period of time, a decision will be taken. Further we are told that eight demands have been given. What are those eight demands? FACT has given certain proposals. What are the proposals for relief given by FACT?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, the demands as mentioned are: (1) three per cent rate concession on loans taken for setting up of fertilizer project.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you give all the eight like this, the Question Hour will be over.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: But this is what the question is.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may give a brief reply.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: That is what I was mentioning earlier. There are eight demands out of which seven concern the Central Government. The Central Government is seized of the matter and is looking into them.

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is a very evasive answer.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: We cannot fix any time limit for that.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: How long will the Government take to come to a decision?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: No time limit can be fixed. The demands can be taken up separately at separate time. No time frame can be given for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri P.C. Chacko. The hon. Minister said that it would not be possible to fix a time limit.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir we want your protection. Five hon. Members raised this specific question. Shri Barnala, who is a very able administrator said that he was looking into it. As you

know, this word 'looking into' is very mischievously used by the Ministers. This Memorandum was submitted six months back. The oldest public sector unit is on the verge of collapse. The Government is getting funds at the interest rate of 2.5 per cent and it is lending money at the interest rate of 15 per cent to the FACT. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to give money at a lower interest rate.

The hon. Minister stated that the customs duty was reduced during the Congress regime. It is true. It was reduced when the customs duty was 18 per cent. But this is a Swadeshi Government. Is this Government prepared to give protection to the local industries? The Minister of Industry will also support it. The customs duty has been reduced again by a *Swadeshi* Government, thereby making the local products unprofitable. ...*(Interruptions)* Will the Government consider giving a one time assistance of Rs. 200 crore; reducing the interest rate and the customs duty? In the current Budget also the customs duty has gone up. Will the Government give an assurance to this House that the FACT would be saved by adopting these measures?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, the hon. Member has intentionally made the question very long. Otherwise, I could answer a part of it.

The question of reducing the interest rate is under active consideration. We have demanded that there should be reduction of 3 per cent in the interest rates. I am very hopeful that it might be possible to do so.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Financial Assistance to Sugar Mills

\*284. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received for seeking financial assistance for the expansion and modernisation of sugar mills from several States during 1998-99.

(b) the number of proposals out of them cleared so far, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

(SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) (a) to (c):

Name of States	Proposals received for Modernisation/ Expansion of Sugar Units (till 12.3.99) (Nos.)	Proposals cleared so far (Nos.)	Proposals not cleared so far (Nos.)	Status about the proposals in col. (4)
Bihar	05	04	01	All these 8 proposals have been received after the last meeting held on 29.10.98 of the SDF—Standing Committee of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs which considers and recommends the proposals for sanction of financial assistance from SDF. These proposals are under consideration of Government.
Gujarat	02	01	01	
Karnataka	02	—	02	
Maharashtra	04	01	03	
Uttar Pradesh	07	06	01	
Total:	20	12	08	

[Translation]

**Welfare Schemes**

\*285. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes implemented and the funds allocated for the welfare of SCs/STs/OBC/ Minorities/Economically backward section of the society of the country during each of the last three years, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the target fixed and the achievements made so far, scheme-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the allocated funds have been fully utilised by the States;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI