

governmental organisations is being utilised for orientation and training of forest department staff and local community in joint forest management.

[Translation]

Burning of Sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh

1663. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the area in hectares in which sugarcane crop has been burnt by the farmers due to non-procurement of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to give compensation for the crop burnt;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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 (d) As per the information received from the State Government, during the last sugar season, i.e., 1995-96, there was no incidence in the knowledge of the State Government where farmers have burnt their sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh. As regards the current season, 1996-97, no such report has been received either from the State Government or from the sugar mills.

[English]

Loss to DMS

1664. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme is incurring huge loss for the past few years on account of the heavy administrative and overhead expenses;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has incurred loss, year-wise;

(c) whether any irregularities/short comings have been noticed in the procurement, processing and distribution of the milk and milk products;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the audit objections; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The selling price of DMS milk was kept generally at levels lower than the full cost of procurement, processing and distribution. As a result of this

it becomes necessary to provide budgetary support for its operations. Budgetary support provided in the last five years is as under :

Year	Budgetary support (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	44.52
1992-93	27.86
1993-94	9.70
1994-95	4.63
1995-96	45.14

(c) to (e) The information is being collected.

[Translation]

Payment of Cane Prices

1665. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills are not paying the sugarcane price fixed by the Union Government to the cane growers of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the price at which the procurement of sugarcane is being done by the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the reason for different prices of sugarcane prevailing in the same State;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to compensate the sugarcane growers receiving the less prices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The sugar mills in public and cooperative sectors of Uttar Pradesh are paying cane price at Rs. 72 to Rs. 76 per quintal during the current season 1996-97, while most of the sugar mills pertaining to private sector are paying Rs. 70 per quintal as per the settlement arrived at between the representatives of the sugar mills and the sugarcane growers.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

1666. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture experts have asked the Government to enhance the investments in infrastructure for the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the total investments in infrastructure for agricultural sector made by the Government during the last three years and the result achieved thereby; and

(c) the time by which the investment in infrastructure is likely to be enhanced ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Government assigns a very high priority to investment in the development of infrastructure in the agriculture sector.

(b) As per the estimates made by the Central Statistical Organisation, the figures of gross capital formation (which includes fixed assets such as irrigation, buildings, roads, bridges and other construction works, machinery and equipments) in the Public Sector as also the total during the last three years i.e. from 1993-94 to 1995-96 at current and at 1980-81 prices are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total		Public Sector	
	At current prices	At 1980-81 prices	At current prices	At 1980-81 prices
1993-94	17009	5038	4467	1153
1994-95	20737	5678	5620	1329
1995-96*	24937	6301	6274	1310

*Quick estimates

Source : C.S.O.

(c) The thrust of the Public Sector Investment is on optimising investment already made. The strategy to increase capital formation in agriculture includes increase plan outlay and increasing the proportion for development of infrastructure, more efficient use of resources to rise productivity and ensuring remunerative prices to farmers to enable them to use savings for higher investment. A new Rural Infrastructure Development Fund within NABARD has been established to provide credit for medium and minor irrigation and soil conservation projects. A Scheme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) is also initiated for providing assistance to States by way of loans for timely completion of selected large and multi purpose irrigation projects.

Support Prices of Pepper, Cashewnut, etc.

1667. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to bring some other commodities like pepper, cashewnut, rubber, cardamom, etc. under the support price programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also propose to bring the said commodities under the purview of Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices; and

(e) the preventive measures proposed to be taken by the Government to check the fluctuation of the prices of the said commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Government is fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of all major agricultural commodities. The other commodities, mainly horticultural and spices crops, including pepper, cashew and cardamom, are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to protect the interest of farmers from making distress sale of their produce. The MIS is undertaken on year to year basis at the specific request of a particular State Government as and when it is apprehended that price of a commodity may fall to uneconomic levels for the farmers during peak arrival period. A pre-determined quantity at a price fixed by the Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State Government, are procured by NAFED as central nodal agency and the agencies nominated by State Government on equal basis. The losses, if any, under the scheme are shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. As no proposal has been received from any State Government in this regard, no MIS is being implemented in above mentioned crops at present.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to bring the said commodities under the purview of MSP recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

(e) Any undue fall in the prices of various fruits, vegetables and spices is sought to be prevented through judicious implementation of MIS in appropriate cases. Prices of these commodities are also sought to be regulated through appropriate trade policies as also through various developmental measures for increasing their domestic production.

National Dairy Development Board

1668. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has been receiving grants in the form of milk products from the European Community Countries and other developed countries for the past several years;

(b) if so, the date on which this scheme was introduced and the assistance received till date, year-wise;