

(b) the area out of it falling in backward areas;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any proposal to make the barren land fertile in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Ambedkar Villages in UP

2203. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5431 dated 12.9.1996 regarding 'Ambedkar Villages' in Uttar Pradesh and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Complete information is still to be received from the Government of U.P. The details will be placed on the table of the House on receipt of the complete information from the State Government.

[Translation]

Sick Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

2204. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh sick and closed at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the farmers had to burn their sugarcane as sugar mills had not purchased the same;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check recurrence of such situation;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to revive sick sugar mills in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Under the provisions of the Sick

Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). These provisions have been extended to cover Government companies also. As per the BIFR, the following two sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh are sick and closed at present :

(i) Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Company Limited, Anandnagar, Gorakhpur.

(ii) Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd. Gauri Factory branch, Gauribazar, Deoria.

(b) and (c) No report about the burning of sugarcane by the farmers has been received from any State Government so far for the current season, 1996-97.

(d) & (e) Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

[English]

Foreign Investment

2205. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States accounts for almost 20 per cent of foreign investment in the food processing sector in India in 1996-97 ;

(b) if so, the other countries who have invested in food processing in India and the US and other countries investment during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the US and other countries have agreed to invest more during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) The foreign investment by USA's companies during 1996-97 in the food processing sector in India accounts for about 76.6% of the total foreign investment approved during this period.

(b) Apart from the companies of USA, proposals have also been received from companies of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, U.K. and Non-Resident Indians. Total foreign investment during 1996-97 by US companies is Rs. 3,424 crores approx., and from other countries Rs. 1,046 crores approx.

(c) The earlier trend of investment is expected to continue by US & other countries in the Food Processing sector in India.

Synthetic Drug Abuse

2206. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are alarming increase in Synthetic drug abuse in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to check the increase in number of synthetic drug cases ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued by the Union Government to State Governments to check the cases of drug abuse ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the reports received from the voluntary organisations assisted by this Ministry, under the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, there is an increasing trend in the use of synthetic drug abuse in the country.

(b) to (d) The Ministry is implementing the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention which a community based approach for building awareness and educating people about ill-effects of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the approved expenditure as per norms under the Scheme is released to the voluntary organisations for setting up/maintenance of Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Awareness and Counselling Centres for Awareness and Preventive Education Programmes and organising of De-addiction camps.

Indian Drug Co. in the Dock

2207. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dumping by China puts Indian Drug Cos. in the dock" appearing in 'The Observer of Business and Politics' dated July 10, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian Drug companies ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No complaint has been received by the Government regarding dumping of Metronidazole by China in the Indian market.

(d) Under Indian Customs Tariff Act and the rules framed thereunder, a product is deemed to be dumped, if it is exported from any country at less than its normal value. An anti-dumping duty can be imposed only after it is established that there is dumping and that the dumped imports caused are threaten to cause material injury to the domestic industry or materially retard the establishment of the domestic industry. All the Petitions against dumping should be submitted to the Government for the purpose of conducting investigations for imposing of anti-dumping duties. An investigation regarding dumped imports would normally be initiated only upon receipt of written Petition by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry.

Task Force on Traffic Control

2208. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered road accidents and the number of persons died due to these accidents in NCT, Delhi during the last three years ;

(b) the steps taken by the Delhi Traffic police to check road accidents to regulate traffic and to apprehend the offending drivers;

(c) whether the Lt. Governor of Delhi had set up task force on traffic control in the Capital ;

(d) if so, the achievements made by the task force, so far;

(e) whether the number of road casualties came down and traffic bottlenecks removed as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The requisite information is as follows :

Year	No of accidents	No. of Persons killed
1994	9050	1884
1995	10138	2070
1996	11315	2091

(b) The steps being taken by Delhi Traffic Police to prevent road accidents in Delhi include strict enforcement of traffic rules, upgradation of traffic signal system, construction of road dividers, speed breakers and such other features and educating the public about the road safety measures. It has also been decided to introduce Mass Rapid Transit System