

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Central Government is not contemplating to construct a dam over Ghaggar river near Chandigarh to store drinking water for neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Government of Haryana is, however, formulating a multi-purpose scheme on Ghaggar river which shall also meet the drinking water requirements of Chandigarh, Panchkula and Ambala area. The detailed project report has not yet been submitted by Government of Haryana.

Prospects in Food Processing Sector

4181. SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up any Committee to study the prospects in the food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Grant to D.M.s.

4182. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given to the DMS during the last year by the Government and the manner in which the grant has been utilised by the DMS;

(b) whether the DMS milk is being sold in the black-market openly with connivance of the administration;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any action to stop this black-marketing and to fix its responsibility; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the scheme to provide milk at cheaper rates to the residents of the capital would be made successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) The Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) was given a budgetary support of Rs. 5847.60 lakhs during the financial year 1997-98. The budgetary support is utilised to bridge the gap between revenue receipts and expenditure which arises due to the difference in the cost of production and selling price of milk.

(b) to (d) DMS is selling milk at much lower prices than that of other suppliers. Consequently, there is heavy demand on the milk booths of DMS. Complaints regarding black-marketing are attended to. If the complaints are found true, necessary action including cancellation of agencies of Senior Depot/Depot Agent/Concessionaire etc is taken. Consumers Advisory Committee and Residents Welfare Associations are also being increasingly associated to aid in making milk distribution smooth and fair.

Agriculture Based Industries

4183. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey in regard to the agriculture based food processing industries in rural areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the agriculture based food processing industries which are being run successfully; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote agriculture based food processing industries in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information regarding the number of food processing units including those being run successfully State-wise is not maintained Centrally.

(c) Under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of very soft loan and grant is provided to cooperatives, Non-