

[Sh. R. Surender Reddy]

having only 33 sugar factories with a daily crushing capacity of 56,650 metric tonnes. Although there is vast potential for the growth of sugar industry in the State, the progress has been tardy. The State has good irrigation potential with abundance of ground water facilities. With the liberalised licensing policy of the Government of India, there has been good response from entrepreneurs in the State setting up new sugar factories in potential areas. The State did not get a fair share in the grant of intent in the earlier years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to consider favourably the applications from the State and grant maximum number of licences for the State of Andhra Pradesh in view of the vast cane area and the potential that the State has for a cane development.

I hope the Centre will take necessary action in this regard.

(iv) Need for another office regional Passport office at Nadiad in Gujarat

DR. K.D. JESWANI (Kheda): Sir, there is only one regional passport office located in Ahmedabad in Gujarat. On an average, it received about one lakh passport applications per year. The staff pattern of the regional passport office has been just the same as per 1960 rules. Accordingly, there is a very huge backlog in the processing of passport applications. About 30,000 such applications are still pending and a lot of difficulties are being faced by the persons who applied for passports. Usually, it takes more than three months to issue one passport. It is high time

that the regional passport office is bifurcated. As more than 60 per cent of the applications are from the Kheda, Baroda and South Gujarat districts, Nadiad would be the proper place to establish another branch of regional passport office.

I urge upon the Government to give a serious consideration to this matter.

(v) Need to give subsidy to Uttar Pradesh Government for transporting foodgrains under Public Distribution System to hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, the Food Corporation of India supplies foodgrains to all the hilly districts from the godowns situated at various railheads. These godowns are at present located at Tanakpur, Haldwani, Ramnagar, Kashipur, Kichha, Rishikesh, Dehradun and Kotwara. The department of food of the State Government lifts foodgrains from these base-godowns to the internal godowns situated in the hilly areas. From there, the work of transporting the foodgrains to the Fair Price Shops is done by the shopkeepers themselves. The transportation expenses of foodgrains from interior godowns to Fair Price Shops is borne by the consumers only. The transportation charges of foodgrains from the base-godowns to interior godowns is borne by the State Government as subsidy. In this way, the cost at which foodgrains is made available to the consumers becomes costlier depending upon the distance of the location of interior godowns from base godowns.

The total area of eight hilly districts is