

leave those with him. I think, the House has conveyed its sentiments and its resolve that whatever be the price, it has to be curbed and no innocent lives are allowed to be lost. That is the consensus of this House...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Jaipal Reddyji, a disease starts quickly, but its cure takes time.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Sir, the injection must be effective, that will cure quickly...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, we will do it.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Good medicine also acts for an early cure.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir your honey tongue works wonders.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of molasses

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*407. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of molasses in the country;

(b) the annual production of molasses in the country and the annual demand; and

(c) the measures being taken to meet the demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

The production of molasses is dependent on the production of sugar and varies from year to year. The availability and consumption of molasses during the last four alcohol years (December-November) has been as follows :

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Carry-over stocks	3.09	16.50	17.56	4.95	1.21
Production	39.93	33.75	23.87	25.12	28.00 (estimated)
Availability	43.02	50.25	41.43	30.07	29.21
<i>Consumption/Exports</i>					
For alcohol Production	23.05	23.27	26.02	25.49	
For other uses	3.37	5.60	4.67	3.23	Not yet available
Exported out of India	0.10	3.82	5.79	0.14	
Total	26.52	32.69	36.48	28.86	
Balance	(+) 16.50	(+) 17.56	(+) 4.95	(+) 1.21	

However, when insufficient availability of molasses has led to shortages of alcohol for industrial purposes, duty free import of denatured alcohol is allowed,

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The Hon. Minister in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2275 of Lok Sabha dated 11.3.1986, Unstarred Question No. 195 dated 21st July, 1986 of Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 341 of Lok Sabha dated 25.2.86, Unstarred Question No. 5829 of Lok Sabha dated 8th April, 1986, has informed the House that the Government is very actively considering to announce the new policy on molasses and its control as well as fixation of prices of molasses. May I know whether the new policy has been announced or not? If not, why not? And when is it expected to be announced? Is there any price control on molasses? If not, whether without fixing the price of molasses the illegal distillation has been increasing day by day? Has this fact been brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister by the President of All India Distillers Association? If so, what action has been taken by the Government on this?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : The policy of molasses has not been announced. It is under the active consideration of the Government.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I have also asked about fixation of price. Has any price been fixed for molasses? If not, when will it be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : The fixation of the price of molasses is under the consideration of the Government. We will announce it very soon.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Is it a fact that molasses are used for preparation of cattle feed? If so, whether the priority is not being given by the surplus States for supply of molasses to the organisations, industries and agencies engaged in preparation of cattle feed. If so, will the Government take action on this issue? In the absence of supply of molasses to the organisations, industries, etc. who are engaged in preparation of cattle feed, they are facing lot of difficulties. Side by side millions of cattle are the worst sufferer today. May I know the Government's attitude in this regard and action taken on this issue so that priority may be given by the surplus

States by supplying molasses to the industries which are engaged in preparation of the cattle feed.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : 10 per cent of the total output is allotted for the cattle feed and other purposes. 90 per cent is for the manufacture of alcohol.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : While agreeing that there is deficit of molasses, there is acute shortage of molasses. The figures had been presented to show that every year there has been surplus of 16.50 lakh tonnes in 1981-82, 17.56 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 and again in 1983-84 it is 4.95 lakh tonnes. In 1984-85 also surplus has been shown. Does it mean that there is actual surplus of molasses in this country? When we are feeling acute shortage of molasses and as a result of this there is acute shortage of alcohol, why is it that such a wrong presentation has been made?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : It is not wrong. There was surplus in the beginning of two years. Now we are in deficit. Shri Madhav Reddi knows that the supply of molasses depends on the crushing in the sugar factories. Now the installed capacity of the sugar factories we are not fully utilising for lack of sugar cane.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The Minister has replied :

“However when insufficient availability of molasses led to shortage of alcohol for industrial purposes duty free import of denatured alcohol is allowed.”

The Minister just now admitted 90 per cent alcohol goes for the manufacture of alcohol liquor. The Government is giving it to full-fledged industry. At the same time, I want to know from the Hon. Minister instead of increasing the prices of indigenous molasses for alcohol, why is the Government importing duty free alcohol? What is the advantage of that? There is huge stock of alcohol in U. P. and other parts of the country.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : In U. P. we are surplus and in other States we are deficit.

It is not correct. We are short of free duty alcohol. For industrial purposes import of alcohol is cheaper than our manufactured alcohol.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that the statutory minimum price fixed by the Union Government is not communicated to the growers, the factories are given state administered prices which are resulting in loss several times. Will the Government now consider to increase the prices of molasses to enable the factories to pay high prices to the cane growers and not to yield to the pressure of the distillery owners ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : I have noted the views of the Hon. Member. That is under the consideration of the Government.

(Interruptions)

The State Government is not. They are getting a lot of income from liquor.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : After all, you have played the trick.

[English]

Delay in submission of accounts by public sector companies

*408. **SHRI KAMAL NATH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of public sector companies have not been preparing their annual final accounts in time for submission to audit which in turn results in delay in the submission of audited accounts to Government and Parliament as per statutory requirement;

(b) whether in some cases submission of accounts is being delayed for two years or even more;

(c) if so, which are those defaulting public undertakings; and

(d) The corrective action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI K. K. TEWARY) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). Based on the information available, out of 217 Central Public Enterprises, 213 Enterprises have held their Annual General Meetings for 1984-85 so far. Information whether their accounts were passed in each of these cases is being collected.

(d) The public Enterprises have been advised by their Administrative Ministries/Departments as well as by the Bureau of Public Enterprises to keep appropriate time schedules so that the accounts are finalised, audited, adopted in the Annual General Meeting and placed before the Parliament within the prescribed time limits. The Bureau of Public Enterprises have also advised Administrative Ministries/Departments to ensure that there is no delay in finalisation of accounts of the enterprises under their administrative control and the placement of annual reports before Parliament.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The statement laid on the Table of the House is not so long as not to be read. Why Mr. K. K. Tewary is so weak as not to read a statement.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Now he has stopped doing physical exercise.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The answer is shorter than the question.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should be allowed to answer only during the Zero Hour. Then we can see his activity.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I had said that he had stopped doing physical exercise.