

El.c.-System of Chilka Lake

*92. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa have allowed construction work on the aquaculture project at Chilka lake and also allowed prawn culture project as a joint venture with some industrial houses;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether prawn culture project will affect the lake's eco-system, cause environmental degradation and violate the Ramsar Convention, 1971; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to check environmental degradation and the resulting consequences affecting the Chilka bird sanctuary ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Government of Orissa and the Chilka Aquatic Farms Ltd. have taken up a joint venture for an integrated prawn culture project. The project consists of a shrimp farm, a hatchery, a shrimp feed mill and a processing plant. About 375 hectares of land have been set apart for the project for making farm ponds.

(c) and (d). Studies on environmental implications of the project have not been carried out. The State Government has been advised to carry out proper environmental impact assessment of the project before undertaking the project.

Casual Labour

*93. PROF. RITA VERMA:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:

Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual rate of absorption of casual labourers in the Railways; and

(b) the steps being taken to speed up their absorption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Approximately 16,000 per year have been getting absorbed in Group 'D' against normal wastage. However, in the last 3 years, there has been an additional average absorption of about 20,000 per year due to the scheme of decasualisation.

(b) In order to provide an opportunity to casual labour to be absorbed in regular employment, virtually all vacancies in Group 'D' are filled by screening and absorption of casual labour and substitutes.

To improve the pace of decasualisation approximately 83,000 posts were sanctioned during the years 1988-89 and 1990-91 under decasualisation scheme.

Cane Price Arrears

*94. SHRI VADDE SOBHA-
NADREESWARA RAO:
SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA:

Will the MINISTER OF FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether several sugar factories are

yet to pay arrears of crores of rupees to the cane suppliers during the current crop season;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to ensure quick payment of cane price arrears to the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d). The arrears of cane price payable by sugar factories to the farmers during the current 1991-92 season, as reported by the sugar factories, as on 31.3.1992, was Rs. 606.38 crores representing 18.7% of the total cane price payable. The State-wise details of the cane price arrears as on 31.3.1992 are given in the attached statement.

The cane price arrears are higher this season mainly on account of higher State Advised cane prices and large volume of cane crushed by the sugar factories.

Ensuring timely payment of cane price by the sugar factories is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have got necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. However, the Central Government has also issued reminders from time to time requesting the State Governments to ensure timely payment of the cane price dues.

STATEMENT

State-wise arrears of Cane price dues as on 31.3.1992 as reported by the sugar factories, during the current sugar season 1991-92.

(Figures in lakh rupees)

STATE/ZONE	ARREARS OF CANE PRICE PAYABLE AS ON 31.3. 1992
Punjab	525.81
Haryana	3251.73
Rajasthan	412.04
West Uttar Pradesh	6369.54
Central Uttar Pradesh	10333.95
East Uttar Pradesh	7803.85
TOTAL UTTAR PRADESH	24507.34
Madhya Pradesh	1213.09
South Gujarat	852.73

(Figures in lakh rupees)

<i>STATE/ZONE</i>	<i>ARREARS OF CANE PRICE PAYABLE AS ON 31.3. 1992</i>
Saurashtra	239.65
TOTAL GUJARAT	1092.38
South Maharashtra	3490.76
North Maharashtra	3132.36
TOTAL MAHARASHTRA	6623.12
North Bihar	7650.69
South Bihar	88.95
TOTAL BIHAR	7739.64
Assam	35.44
Andhra Pradesh	2051.17
Karnataka	4827.36
Tamil Nadu	2724.92
Kerala	1.12
Orissa	436.09
West Bengal	79.67
Nagaland	62.14
Pondicherry	140.50
Goa	144.31
ALL INDIA	60637.87