

Accordingly, the financial institutions have decided to encourage the widening of equity base of the industrial units by adopting revised norms for debt-equity ratio. In respect of small and medium projects, liberalisations effected in the Seed Capital Scheme (under which equity type of assistance of upto Rs. 15 lakhs is extended at a nominal service charge of 1 per annum for projects costing upto Rs. 3 crores for strengthening equity base) is expected to supplement in the equity requirements of projects.

Issue of underweight wheat bags from godown of Food Corporation of India in Delhi

952. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that underweight wheat bags issued by the Food Corporation of India godown at Fheora, Delhi, were recently detected by the Directorate of Industries and Weight and Measures Department of the Delhi Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the result thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). On 31-1-1986, Weights and Measures Department of Delhi Administration weighed at random 10 bags out of 30 bags of wheat issued by Food Corporation of India at its Ghavera depot and not Fheora as mentioned in the question, to Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation for distribution through fair price shops and found shortages of 24.5 kgs.

(c) to (e). The Food Corporation of India is investigating the matter with a view to fixing responsibility on its employes for their lapse.

Losses in Sugar Factories

953. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many sugar factories have incurred losses in recent years;

(b) whether the price of molasses from which alcohol and arrack are manufactured is kept at very low level;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the price of molasses to help the sugar factories and khandasari units to overcome financial crisis to some extent; and

(d) whether Government also propose to increase the price of arrack payable to the sugar factory to enable it to overcome losses and pay higher price to cane growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) The Government do not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills which are mainly in private or cooperative sector. The sugar policy is announced by the Government of India from time to time. The profitability or otherwise of a sugar factory depends on a variety of factors which include cane availability, technical and managerial competence of a sugar mill and certain other factors which are not directly regulated by the sugar policy. The ultimate responsibility to ensure efficient running of a sugar mill lies solely with the management.

(b) Reasonable prices of molasses and alcohol are fixed on the basis of Cost Studies undertaken by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

(c) and (d). Government are yet to take a view on further revision of prices of molasses and alcohol.

Closure of Textiles Mills in Gujarat

954. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :