

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 17, 1996/Agrahayana 26,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Functioning of Sugar Mills

*361. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills which have started sugar production during the current crushing season, State-wise;

(b) the number of sugar mills lying closed at present along with the details of the remedial steps taken to revive them, State-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for the sugar production for the current crushing season?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c). A statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) A statement giving State-wise number of sugar factories which started crushing operations for the season 1996-97, as per information available upto 10.12.1996, is at Annexure-I.

(b) A statement showing State-wise number of sugar mills which remained closed during 1995-96 (October, 1995 to September, 1996) is at Annexure-II. As far as remedial steps for revival is concerned, the sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

(c) No target of sugar production has been fixed. However, with the carry over stocks at the beginning of the season i.e. as on 1.10.1996 and likely sugar production during the current season, there would be sufficient availability of sugar to meet the internal requirement of the country during the season 1996-97.

ANNEXURE-I

Number of factories started crushing operations as per information available upto 10.12.1996 for the season 1996-97 (provisional)

S.No.	States	Number of factories working
1.	Punjab	13
2.	Haryana	11*
3.	Rajasthan	-
4.	Uttar Pradesh	106*
5.	Madhya Pradesh	4
6.	Gujarat	16
7.	Maharashtra	97*
8.	Bihar	9*
9.	Assam	-
10.	Orissa	3
11.	West Bengal	1
12.	Nagaland	-
13.	Andhra Pradesh	13
14.	Karnataka	24
15.	Tamil Nadu	9
16.	Pondicherry	1
17.	Kerala	1
18.	Goa	1
	All India	309

* As per letters of State Govt./Collected over telephone.

ANNEXURE-II

Statement Showing Statewise Number of Sugar Mills which Remained Closed During 1995-96 (Oct'95 to Sept'96) as per Reports Available

S.No.	States	Number of Sugar Mills
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	1
2.	Haryana	-
3.	Rajasthan	-
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1
6.	Gujarat	3
7.	Maharashtra	4
8.	Bihar	11
9.	Assam	1
10.	Orissa	1
11.	West Bengal	-
12.	Nagaland	-
13.	Andhra Pradesh	6

1	2	3
14.	Karnataka	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	1
16.	Pondicherry	-
17.	Kerala	2
18.	Goa	-
All India		35

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is quite Comprehensive but Hon'ble Minister has given a very strange reply. I had asked about the target of the Government regarding production of sugar. Minister has replied that there is no target. Why has the target not been fixed? Secondly, Hon'ble Minister has admitted that at present 35 sugar mills are lying closed in the country and 300 working mills are not utilising their full capacity. The sugar mills have to prepare the plans for re-establishment and modernisation by themselves. The Sugar mills are not concerned merely with the Sugar industry. Of the Sugar mills remain closed or do not utilise the full capacity, the sugarcane of farmers remains unsold. As a result, the farmers have to burn the standing crop of sugarcane. It is not only the sugarcane of farmers which is burnt but their future too goes up in the smoke. Lakhs of farmers set on fire their standing crop of sugarcane last years and the farmers who sold their sugarcane to the sugar mills, have also not received any payment for it. Payment of crores of rupees is still to be made by the sugar mills to the farmers because of which the farmers growing sugarcane are being discouraged. If the production of sugarcane goes down, the production of sugar too would fall. If the production of sugar falls, its price will go up. Consequently the consumer will be affected and Government would have to import it which would mean losing foreign exchange. Hence I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister as to whether there is some such ensured policy of the Government under which the sugar mills lying closed could be revived, new sugar mills could be opened, the production capacity of sugar mills could be enhanced, sugarcane of farmers is sold and they do not have to burn the standing crop and they receive their payments in time. Whether the Government have formulated any sure-shot policy for this? If any such policy has been formulated, what are the details thereof? If not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has not understood the reply properly. I have given a very clear reply to his question. As of now, upto 16 December i.e. upto yesterday, 321 sugar mills have been set up throughout the country. Last year, there were 323 sugar mills around this time. These mills have been set up in that proportion. Some sugar mills are defunct. Owing to such reasons as defects in machinery, process of crushing continuing

till late season last time, labour problems and management problems, 35 sugar mills are defunct. The Government, on its level, is trying its best to revive these sugar mills I have written a letter to all the Chief Secretaries on 26 November in this regard.

I had already written him a letter. The rest of sugar mills are likely to be opened within a week. Very few sugar mills are lying closed. The hon. Member said something about the target. *(Interruptions)* First listen to my reply.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : First listen to part 'a' of the question keenly... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am giving reply to the question asked by the hon. Member. He has asked the number of sugar mills to be opened during the crushing season... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It is written there... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply first.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The hon. Member asked two questions. His first question is about the sugar mills... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The written reply has anomalies... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

"A statement showing statewide number of sugar factories which started crushing operations for the season 1996-97".

[Translation]

That is the question.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : No, the question is how many sugar mills have started crushing operations during the current crushing season, 1995-96. He has asked what is the target fixed in this regard...

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Target is secondary

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has asked the question.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am giving reply to his question. You may ask your question at your turn. In response to the hon. Members question of target, I would like to say that crushing has only started as yet and estimate of target can be determined in February and production will not be less as compared to last year. Last year, the production of sugar was 164 lakh tonne, and in 1994-95, production was 146 lakh tonnes. The target fixed for this year is almost the same that of last year. But we can't give the exact figure unless we analyse things. Besides, the sugarcane is still being sent for crushing and the target will depend on sugarcane production.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had asked two points. The hon. Minister gave a hazy picture in response to my two questions about clearcut sugar policy of the Government and the closed sugar mills. He said that four sugar mills are operating and one is lying closed in Madhya Pradesh. According to my information, there are nine sugar mills there. So, what is the position of the remaining four mills?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are formulating a sugar policy and it would not be in the fitness of things to disclose anything here unless it is finalised. In Madhya Pradesh, out of nine sugar mills, four are operating and it will take a week to start operation of the rest five.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his reply he said that four are operating and one is lying closed. So what about the rest four?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : There are nine in total.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : I am pointing at your reply.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : That is previous day's information. I can give the position of yesterday only.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : What change will be there in 3-4 days?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am giving facts based on my information up to 16th.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Four mills can't be opened in four days. It was also the earlier position of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : New sugar mills are opening everyday.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is surprising. New sugar mills are not opened everyday...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His question has not been replied to as yet.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is giving wrong information.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, four sugar mills have started crushing operation in M.P. and the Union Govt. are trying to start the other five in a week.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rameshwar Patidar.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have asked only one question and should be allowed to ask supplementaries also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have asked same question twice.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Second time, I had sought clarification. My second supplementary is that mills are not utilising their optimum capacity and the farmers are

found to burn their standing crop. So what remedial measures is Government going to take to prevent the situation of burning standing crops? There is large scale sugarcane production in our country and less sugar mills with less crushing capacity. Whether the Govt. will consider to adopt delience system for setting up of new sugar mills?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have gathered full information from the cane Commissioner of Hoshangabad through a letter. He has stated that the farmers burn the secondary growth every year for getting manure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : That is not true...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has asked whether in view of less number of sugar mills, more mills will be opened?

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Sugarcane was burnt in many districts including Narsimhapur...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sit down and listen to him.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is really shortage of sugar mills in Madhya Pradesh and the Hon. Member may send a representation for setting up a sugar mill anywhere through cooperative or otherwise. The Government will not hesitate to do the needful.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to a report, the sugar industry is facing an economic crisis but the financial crisis facing the farmers would lead them into a loan dragnet. The farmers irrigate the sugarcane with their blood and yet their amount remain outstanding. The Hon. Minister said that 48.42 percent is outstanding in M.P., 24.51 percent in U.P. The Hon. Prime Minister announced that outstanding sum will soon be paid in U.P. but there was no such announcement about M.P.

Secondly, different rates prevail in different states. One sugar mill is paying Rs. 75 and other Rs. 92 per quintal in M.P. According to High Court verdict U.P. state Government cannot raise prices in the name of state advisory price. Hence such hue and cry in U.P. The sugar mills are submitting bills without making payments for sugarcane. So while the state has suspended the new rate, the Standing Committee on Food has suggested that the Govt. should determine integrated price. Will the Govt. fix integrated price for sugarcane throughout the country? The benefits drawn by factory owners like making of wine from its juice, spirit from the molasses and paper from the waste material should be included in the support price declared by the Govt. The support price has not been announced yet whereas the crushing season has already been started. About rupees one and half crore of the farmers of my district in Maharashtra is outstanding upon Sinkhera Sinthla mill. When this amount will be paid to them?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker the payment of arrears is not included in the original question but 92.6 percent arrears have been paid. Action is underway to pay the rest.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that out of the three sugar mills in Kerala, two are closed. The unfortunate thing is that both the sugar mills which are closed are in my constituency. One is in the cooperative sector called the Mannam Sugar Mills, named after a great social and political leader of Kerala and the other is at Tiruvalla. Both the sugar mills have been closed for years as they had become sick. I would like to know from the Government as to whether they will consider reviving these sick sugar mills which are already closed and whether they will call a meeting of all the parties concerned, that is, the management, the representatives of the State Governments and the representatives of the farmers and chalk out an action plan so that both these mills can be revived.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir there is information about opening two sugar mills. About the rest, as I said earlier in my reply we have written letters to Chief Secretaries of every state.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am asking about the closed sugar mills which are already closed and not about opening of new sugar mills. We do not want any new sugar mills; we only want the closed sugar mills to be opened.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I have already stated sugar mills were closed due to labour problem, defunct machinery and financial problem.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The reason for closure is known to us. I am only asking whether you will call a meeting of all the interested parties to consider their revival. That is all I am asking. You may just say 'yes' or 'no'.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, I will try to open the closed mills of Kerala by convening a special meeting in this regard.

SMT. RAJANI PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now, the Hon. Minister had said that LOI will be issued to those in Govt. or private sector who wants to set up a sugar mill. In Maharashtra, 27 and 14 sugar mills were issued LOI during Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan, respectively. After granting LOI they were left to

their fate without ascertaining their financial position and after ten years these mills are not complete. Is that the sugar policy of the Govt? On the one hand, the farmers are burning their crop, there is no crushing and on the other sugar factories are not standing on their feet even after ten years despite granting LOI because the centre granted them no financial assistance.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the LOI granted last time expire after three years. If their financial position is not sound.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Mr. Minister. IFCI has refused to finance. You can't avoid questions like that. After granting LOI, the Central Govt. is responsible to monitor future action. The cost of a sugar mill estimated at Rs. 24 crore has been raised to Rs. 40 crore.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, incentive is being given to the sugar mill that was granted LOI. The Central Govt. is giving incentive to all sugar mills opened upto 31 March, 1994. The hon. Member may give in writing, we will consider that...(Interruptions) I had asked a separate question ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You sit down or nothing will go on record. The House has decided not to admit more than five supplementaries on one question....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may give a notice for half an hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I had requested you to allow me to ask only one question and you are turning that down...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you half-an-hour discussion, if you so desire.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a very important question. You should allow it ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, half-an-hour discussion has already been allowed. As many Members should be allowed to ask question during that discussion as possible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane problem is assuming serious dimensions. All mills have not been revived. Outstanding payment has not been made to the farmers. There is discontentment among farmers. That is why half-an-hour discussion has been allowed. But, since first question in the ballot has emerged on this issue, the rules should be relaxed to accommodate two-three Members. The sugar is getting sour, let the atmosphere not be vitiated...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, I will allow.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the serious question of sugar mills does not involve mill owners alone but farmers as well. Sugar mills are late by two months.

[Translation]

all sugar mills used to start functioning but this time not even a single sugar mill started functioning in Punjab till 20th November and only 5 sugar mills started functioning there till 30th November. The figures given here by the Hon. Minister are absolutely wrong. till date in our state only 7 sugar mills have started functioning while the Hon. Minister is stating that 13 sugar mills have started functioning. Similarly, not even a single mill had started functioning in Haryana till 20th November. The reason is that the Government has not been able to decide any policy till date. If a patient is not provided medicine in time then he will die licences of all Sugar agents are being withdrawn. In Punjab, there are four sugar mills in private sector. Each mill is worth Rs. 50 crore but these were sold just for Rs. 15 crore. In the previous session we raised this issue but no one heard us. I want to know why these sugar mills of private sector were sold at such a cheap price. What is your policy in this regard. At present buffer stock of sugar is approximately 80 lakh tons. Whether it is not true that it is low quality sugar. What are the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of sugar. Besides this you have spent sugar development fund for creating buffer stock but why this amount was not spent for improving the quality of sugar. I also want to know why sugar mills are running in loss. I think the major reason for this is recovery of sugarcane. The House should be told clearly as what steps the Government has taken to improve the recovery of sugarcane so that the sugar mills could start earning profit and the arrears could be paid to farmers.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Hon. Member have discussed about S.D.F., i.e. Sugar development fund. The management of sugar mills in Punjab, which started sugar mills in private or in Cooperative sector and prepared plan for establishment and modernisation of these mills, got them sanction from the financial institutions and applied for loan on concessional rates from S.D.F. are getting loans from S.D.F. Till 30.9.1996 loans amounting to Rs. 542.21 crore were sanctioned to 156 sugar mills for establishment and modernisation.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. As a result of introduction of prohibition in Andhra Pradesh, the molasses produced by the sugar factories had lost its market because it was used by the distilleries.

As a result of that the sugar mills are suffering financial losses. Some of them have even closed down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Central Government proposes to arrange for

utilisation of this molasses to help the sugar industry in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker this is an issue of molasses. The ultra modern sugar mills which are being established have provision to all projects but the old sugar mills lack any such provision.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I want to ask Hon. Minister one pointed question. In his speech the Hon. Ministers has stated that efforts were being made to revive closed sugar mills. I would like to bring to his notice that many sugar mills of B.I.C. group are running under Ministry of Textile one of them is Madhaura sugar mill of Madhaura region in Saran district of Bihar which has previous years liability of Rs. 5 crore to the farmers. Now when the farmers' crop is ready in their fields, in this month the Textile Ministry has decided to close down that sugar mill. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to in what circumstances this is being done while another sugar mills of the same group is running in loss. There is one Pudrauna Sugar mill of the same group which is running in loss of Rupees two and half crore. There is an another mill-Katkaniya sugar mill which is also running in a loss of Rupees two and half crore. A loss of Rs. 3 crore 25 lakhs has occurred in this year to Madhaura Sugar mill then in what circumstances this is being closed down and whether the hon. Minister will discuss with the textile minister about the previous arrear of Rupees five crore due towards farmers and ask him why at the time when sugarcane crop is ready in the fields, the mill is being closed down and how the loss of 10 crore rupees to the farmers will be compensated. Whether the Hon. Minister will meet and request the Textile minister to revive the Madhaura Sugar mill in Saran District.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Madhaura sugar mill is under Textile Ministry and textile ministry control this sugar mill and their management runs sugar mill but inspite of this, keeping in view the sentiments of the Hon. Member and interests of the farmers, the matter of giving concession and any other matter which is related to my department will be taken into consideration. With my these views, I will refer this matter to the textile Ministry with a request that immediate action should be taken in this direction to revive this mill.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister's reply is not satisfactory. Government is united or divided in fractions.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is not in my control.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Then you should have come here after consulting the textile Ministry.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Yes we will talk with them. That is what I have said.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Textile ministry is closing the mill. You want to run the mill. Two factions of a Government are fighting against each other. What about the farmers? What about the sugarcane?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Leader of opposition described this issue as a serious one and he talked about the division of the Government in two factions. There is no such thing like two factions. This is a unified responsibility of the Government. Therefore, I will talk personally to the textile Minister to take immediate initiatives in this direction.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, why the textile ministry runs sugar mill? It can't run even the textile mill and it is running sugar mill. Infact it is not running the sugar mill, instead it is closing the sugar mill.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through a question we are discussing the crisis being faced by sugar mills and plight of farmers, I would like ask only two questions?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Two questions are not allowed. You can ask only one question.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : My first question is that Hon. High court of Uttar Pradesh had given a judgement on the appeal of private sugar mills. Due to that judgement, today it become very difficult to decide as to what will be the value of sugar mill. Hence, this time the farmers are in a major crisis. What type of policy will be formulated by the Government on the basis of the recent judgement of the High Court about the appraisal of the value of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and by which date a decision in this regard will be delivered to the state. Part (b) of my question is that recently one question came from Maharashtra whether you issue letter of intent. I would like to know from you whether the Committee which does screening of applications for the letter of intent under the Department of Food. At present Ministry of textiles is running the sugar mill. My question is that you issue the letter of intent your Department does screening of applications. You control the sugar development fund but for licence you send application to Department of Industry. Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. Till now the mistakes are being made in the name of functioning the Government, such as issuance of licence to sugar mills by textile ministry. Whether you are transferring it to the Food Ministry. What policy decision the Government will take on this question so that the problem of sugar mills, the problem of farmers and the problem of sugarcane can be sorted out immediately. I have to ask two questions, one is Policy related and other is relation to judgement of the High Court.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The question raised by the hon. Member is... (Interruptions). The copy of the judgement of Uttar Pradesh High Court is not readily available with me. We will immediately ask for

the copy of the judgement of Uttar Pradesh High Court. The minimum price of Government in the case of sugarcane is 42.50 rupees but the Government has increased and fix it at Rs. 45.90 paise. I also think that there is a need to reconsider the decisions taken by the High Court so that remunerative prices can be given to the farmers. Therefore this Government can not overlook the interests of the farmers. It will take decision in the overall interest of the farmer. As far as the decision of ministerial control is concerned, it will be taken into consideration. We will consult the Industry department also.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, these three issues are inter connected problem of sugarcane... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You let him speak.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Crushing capacity and supply. How sugar is supplied to the areas like Jammu and Kashmir where Sugarcane is not grown and where there is no sugar mill.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This will go in the record ... (Interruptions) Please let one person to speak.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : As I have told you in the Kashmir Valley sugar is available at Rs. 25 per Kg in black... (Interruptions) MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Except this nothing will go in records.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : I would like to ask one question. You have send wheat to the district head quarter. Sugar which is supplied, by Government through cooperative... (Interruptions) Why sugar can not be supplied to district head quarters as is done in case of wheat... (Interruptions) Some areas lie disconnected for 9 months, such as Laddakh, Kargil, Gurer, Tangwada and Baramula Districts. Why do not you supply sugar there on the same pattern as you supply wheat to them.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not related to the original question. With due regards, to the Hon. members sentiments I would like to clarify that all over the country there is one price for sugar, that is nine rupees five paise per kg. and it is supplied by the P.D.S. All over the contry only for sugar there is the same consumer price. State Governments add to it purchasing tax or transportation tax etc. and then supply it. Our duty is to provide sugar at nine rupees five paise per kg. to the State Governments for P.D.S. Therefore, whether it is a Jammu and Kashmir or a region of Uttar Pradesh, there is one fixed rate of Government of India, that is nine rupees five paise per kg.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : My question was, why don't you to this as you supply the Gandum district headquarter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have one suggestion. Just now Shri Vajpayeeji told that sugar has become bitter in taste. So please at least do not create bitterness in the atmosphere of the House...(Interruptions)

Fellowships by the Ambedkar Foundation

362. SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Overseas Fellowships are being given for higher studies by the Ambedkar Foundation,

(b) if so, the details of fellowships given in each subject for Ph.D and Post Doctoral courses during the last three years;

(c) whether conducting of the interviews and declaration of results are being delayed unduly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to check the same?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) to (e). The scheme of Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships was approved by the Government in January, 1992. Awards for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 have already been given to the selected Scholars. The Ministry is in the process of finalising the awards for the year 1995-96. For the year 1996-97, the advertisement has already been issued and formalities for selection of candidates are underway.

STATEMENT

Subject	Name of Awardees	Course for which Fellowship is given
1	2	3
Year 1992-93		
Economics	S/Sh. Atul Mishra	Ph.D
	Vivek Suneja	Ph.D
International Relations (IR)	Rahul Mukherji	Ph.D
Sociology	Ranjit Nayak	Ph.D
Year 1993-94		
Economics	Ms. G. Radhika	Ph.D
International Relations	Kamal Sadiq	Ph.D
Sociology	K.P. Singh	Ph.D

1	2	3
Law and Constitutional Studies	Ms. Anu Grover	PG
Year 1994-95		
Economics	J.D. Rathod	Ph.D
International Relations	Rajendra Parihar	Post Doctoral
Sociology	Ms. Saliha Bava	Ph.D
	P. Umesh Chandra	Ph.D

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Ambedkar foundation have been established and the fellowships which are to be given through it are meant for Doctorate and Post-doctorate level studies as it envisages. Reply given to the question suggests that 11 fellowships were given, out of which only one is given to post doctorate scholar while 10 are meant for doctorate level. It does not contain the complete answer to my question. I had also asked whether there was an excessive delay in declaring the results and what steps were being taken to eliminate delay this. In the reply it is mentioned that results of 1995-96 are not yet declared. December is coming to its end there is delay somewhere. I would like to know from Hon. Minister whether there is single committee for awarding scholarships to the scholars doing doctorate and post doctorate studies and whether the selection is made on the basis of single criteria. A distinction must be made between Doctorate and post doctorate scholars and fellowships must be given to them separately. As I said, only 10 scholarships are given to the doctorate level and only one is given at the post doctorate level. Whether these are being mixed together instead of being kept separate? Government's attention was drawn to the irregularities committed in this matter. What action has been taken in this regard?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have awarded 12 scholarships, you can count them. The subjects in which we gave scholarships are Law, Economics, Sociology and International Relations. These are given for Master degree, post doctorate and Ph.D.

Hon. member has two Complaints. First why the delay took place and second, whether single criteria is followed. I would like to clarify that qualification is same but for the delay which took place in 1995-96, there are so many reasons. We will complete this is the current financial year and after making the selection we will send it. Complaint of irregularities have been received. We have considered it seriously. No complaints of such serious irregularities have been received which could under mine the very objective of starting these scholarships.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it has been said now, the objective of