

(b) the details of sugarcane growing areas catering by these centres;

(c) the allocation made by the Union Government to these Centres in the State;

(d) whether sugarcane Research Centres have not been set up in all the Districts of Orissa particularly in Kalahandi; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Sugarcane research work is being done at the following locations in Orissa :

1. Sugarcane Research Station, Panipolla, P.O. Balugaon, District Nayagarh.
2. Sugarcane Adaptive Trial Sub-Station, Rayagada.
3. Sugarcane Adaptive Trial Sub-Station, Barpali via Bargarh.

(b) Sugarcane is grown in an area of about 22,000 hectares in the districts of Rayagada, Aska, Bargarh, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur etc. The Sugarcane Research Centres given on (a) above are conducting locations specific experiments with a view to increase the productivity of sugarcane and sugar in these areas.

(c) One of the centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane (ICAR) is located at

Panipolla district, Nayagarh. The ICAR has made a budget provision (BE) of Rs. 8.59 lacs for 1998-99 for smooth functioning of this centre. Besides, the Union Government has provided Rs. 2.47 lacs through ICAR for production of Breeder's Seed and conducting Frontline demonstrations or sugarcane.

(d) and (e) The research needs, of sugarcane grown in the Kalahandi district, are met by the nearby research centre located at Rayagada. Hence it is felt that there is no need for opening of new centre at Kalahandi.

[Translation]

Allocations to Minorities/SCs/STs

4058. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allocated by the Government for the economic upliftment of the minorities/SCs and STs during 1997-98;

(b) whether the allocated amount was spent fully;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of people from Minority Communities given loans and grants out of the amount allocated for the upliftment of minorities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) 30,021 (up to 30-6-1998).

'Statement

The amounts allocated (as per Revised Estimates) and expenditure incurred for 1997-98 in respect of various schemes for economic upliftment of SCs, STs & minorities

(Rs. in Crores)

1	Amount allocated for 1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	Expenditure
1	2	3
Scheduled Castes		
1. Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan	308.27	308.80
2. National SCs/STs Finance & Development Corporation	20.23	20.23
3. Scheduled Castes Development Corporation	45.00	45.00
4. National Safai Karmacharies Finance and Development Corpn.	4.75	4.75
5. National Schemes of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers	90.00	90.00
Scheduled Tribes		
1. Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan	330.00	330.00

1	2	3
2. Grants under Provision (i) to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	75.00	75.00
3. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Co-operative Corporations for MFP Operations	8.23	8.23
4. Investment in TRIFED	23.00	23.00
5. Price Support to TRIFED	1.00	1.00
Minorities		
1. National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.	-	-

Closure of Sugar Mills in U.P.*[English]*

4059. SHRI ADITYANATH :
SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the impact of this closure on the sugarcane farmers of the State;

(c) whether any assessment has been made in this regard;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated to save those mills from closure;

(e) the total number of farmers as well as sugarcane area likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the sugar production in the country is likely to be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (f) There is no information about impending closure of sugar mills in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It may, however, be stated that the following two sugar mills have not been working due to various reasons.

Sl. No.	Name of Sugar mill	Not operated since
1.	M/s Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Anandnagar Distt., Maharajganj.	1994-95
2.	Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., Gauribazar, Distt. Deoria.	1996-97

School for Handicapped Children

4060. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to set up schools for handicapped children in the various States especially in District Barpeta (Assam);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for establishment of Special School for handicapped children, the grant-in-aid is released to the Non-Governmental Organisations on merits provided the application is forwarded through the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration with their recommendations. However, the State Government of Assam has not yet sent any proposal in respect of any NGO for such a School in District Barpeta.

Oil Exploration Abroad

4061. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI S.S. OWAIISI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to allow Indian oil companies to explore abroad to augment the oil resources of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;