

Institute of Geo-Physics University of Hawaii, had carried out gravimetric observations at a number of points. That was done under our international commitment to the International Union of Geodesy, *i.e.* for locating mineral resources, studying the shape of the earth and Geo-Physics and also for calibration of gravimeters and standardisation of gravity data in India.

A technical paper based on this was published in 1955. But in 1965 restrictions were imposed on sharing this data with anybody and on publications also. No further data were exchanged with outside agencies since then. In addition, no further collaborations were made by the Survey of India in this field after that.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am still not clear in my mind. I want a specific answer. One part is clear. No data have been shared after 1955, although it is admitted that between 1955 and 1974 there was joint collection of this data. So, these data at least collected by one agency were automatically available to the collaborating partner, the two institutions mentioned by the hon. Minister. So, I want to know specifically, as of today whether there is any collaboration arrangement by any of these three agencies in this specific field and I also like to know which are the agencies, apart from the two that you have mentioned with which the data was shared and exchanged with the outside agencies, if any other than these two that you have mentioned already, with which the data was shared prior to 1955, or 1974, as the case may be ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I have submitted about ONGC, about the Survey of India, about NGRI. At present there is no collaboration and there is no sharing.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Are there certain other outside agencies that you have not mentioned, with which you have shared the data before the cut off date ? Which are those agencies ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I have already submitted about NGRI and the Survey of India that they had an international commitment with the International Union of Geodesy. That was shared.

That was prior to 1955 and after that nothing has been done, no collaboration has been entered into.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, the International Union of Geodesy, that data is shared with all other countries in the world...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sode Ramaiah. Yes, Mr. Mohanty, do you want to ask a question ?

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Whether the hon. Minister has the information, as to how many foreign collaborators are working in ONGC and Survey of India and elsewhere, and whether they have access to this type of data or not.

(Interruptions)

I think I have not been answered.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : The hon. Member wanted to know the number of foreigners working in ONGC and Survey of India. That information has to be collected. But we take care that nothing important is accessible to them.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, I wanted to know as to how many foreign collaborators...

MR. SPEAKER : He has not got the information. He will provide you.

[Translation]

Outstanding Sugarcane dues from Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

*108. **SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of the sugarcane dues pertaining to the last year outstanding against the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and arrangements made for its payment; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the mills are running in heavy loss and it is proposed to close them and if so, the names thereof ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) :

(a) For the 1985-86 sugar season, as on 30th September, 1986, the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh had paid about Rs. 401 crores out of the total cane price of Rs. 405 crores payable for the season, leaving a balance of about Rs. 4 crores. The responsibility for having the price cleared lies with the State Governments who have the necessary powers and field organizations to enforce the same. The Central Government on its part has been taking steps aimed at improving the liquidity of the sugar industry to enable them to make timely payments. As a result of the Governmental efforts, the arrears during the last season have been the minimum.

(b) The Central Government do not maintain the profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills which are mainly in private or cooperative sectors. The profitability of a sugar factory depends on a variety of factors such as cane availability, technical and managerial competence etc. The Central Government have no proposals at present to close down any sugar factory.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : First you tell me who is sweet amongst you ? Have you called him back or he has come back on his own ?

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I solicit your cooperation. This is a matter concerning sugar; it is a sweet subject. Everybody drinks sugar.

AN HON. MEMBER : They eat sugar and not drink it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The people make its syrup and drink it. The hon. Minister has evaded answer to the question that I had asked. He has not replied to it properly. The only reply given by him is that Rs. 4 crores are outstanding as dues. What I wanted to ask was how much of these 4 crore rupees which is outstanding against the sugar mills as sugarcane price was outstanding against the Government and which mill had the highest dues outstanding against its name.

I wanted to know sector-wise break-up of the dues, e.g. the private sector, public sector and Sugar Corporation etc., which he has not indicated ?

Besides, how much the sugar mills owe to the banks and to the Central Government ? This too has not been replied to ?

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I want to know how much dues are outstanding against the private sector, the Cooperative sector and the Sugar Corporation ? What steps the Central Government are taking to ensure that the sugar mills do not face such a situation in future ? I want separate answers to these points.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I do not have separate figures, but as I said earlier, this is for the first time after 4 or 5 years or rather after a long time that the arrears are so low. I would say that this comes to only 1 per cent as compared to 3.4 per cent last year. Prior to that, it was 7.4 per cent and before that in 1982-83, it was 16.3 per cent. In 1982, the arrears amounted to Rs. 70 crores, but this year the arrears have fallen from 70 crores to Rs. 4 crores. So far as the number of factories against which arrears are outstanding is concerned, there are only 32 mills out of 100 in Uttar Pradesh against which arrears are due and out of these 32, 10 mill are such against which more than 10 lakhs are due. So far as the sector-wise figures are concerned, I shall send these figures to the hon. Member later on.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister might be aware that the Central Government was running five mills in Uttar Pradesh. Why the Government are not running these mills now ? I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much arrears were due to the farmers as cane price from these five mills at the time when the Central Government had taken over their management and what was the corresponding figure of these arrears when they left their management ? Besides, sugar mills of Deoria and Beta'pur were being run by the Central Government, but now they have abandoned these mills.

I would like to know how much arrears are outstanding against these mills and what steps the Central Government propose to take in future to run Deoria and Betalpur sugar mills which were abandoned by them earlier ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had taken over those mills because their owners did not want to run them. When the mill-owners did not run them, they suffered heavy losses. I do not have the figures of these losses right now. If the hon. Member wants to have them, I shall send those figures to him later on. We have also discussed this matter with the State Government and told them to run these mills if they want, because we want that there should be no difficulty to the cane suppliers. At one stage, but State Government agreed to run them, but now, we are considering to run some of these mills. When they refused to run the mills, the Central Government had to run them and these mills suffered heavy losses because their machinery and other equipments were old and obsolete.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to fully... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : So far as the question of these 5 mills is concerned, we are thinking what to do about them. First, we thought of re-structuring them and we have also asked the State Government to run them but—

[*English*]

—this is a long-term process, so I cannot say anything.

[*Translation*]

We are also thinking in terms of framing a long-term sugar policy. We want that the new sugar mills should also be set up and the number of sugar mills should be increased.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of mills in U.P. and Bihar which received funds from the Central Government in the name of modernisation

and whether these mills actually affected modernisation or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : Had they effected modernisation, why would there have been losses ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I do not have information right now as to how many of them got money from the Central Government and whether they effected modernisation or not.

(*Interruptions*)

According to my personal view, the Sugar Development Fund, which is with the Government, is not being fully utilized. It is our endeavour to see that this fund is fully utilized to effect modernisation. There has been some delay in framing rules, but now the rules have been framed. We want that it should be implemented on a time-bound scale. In case the hon. Member has any information about any mill to the effect that they have not utilized the money fully, we shall order a thorough inquiry into it.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the arrears outstanding against the sugar mills in U.P. amount to Rs. 4 crores, but at the same time he has also said that the arrears do not exceed Rs. 10 lakhs individually. I would like to cite a specific example in this regard. Shahganj Sugar Factory in Jaunpur district which was under the private sector was closed down two years ago. This mill owes Rs. 2 crores to the farmers and Rs. 1.5 crores to the workers. He has not given this information. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make an arrangement so that the arrears due to the farmers and workers are paid to them by this particular factory ? This is a very serious matter. We are not able to face the public in Jaunpur. Will the hon. Minister take steps to get these dues paid and help in running this mill ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : My colleague has said that ten factories are such which owe more than Rs. 10 lakhs as arrears. It means, what is being said may be true...

MR. SPEAKER : He had given the figure of four crores. Even as it is it amounts to Rs. 3 or 4 crores.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : As regards the efforts made to get the arrears paid, I have myself written twice to the Chief Ministers. The Secretary has also written that the arrears should be paid.

[*English*]

SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Is it not a fact that these mills are running in a heavy loss because of the bad policy of the Government to import sugar from other countries ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : This is not a fact. With due respect I want to tell you, in framing the sugar policy in the country the Government has to balance a number of interests. One is the interest of the sugarcane growers so that they get adequate price, otherwise they would not grow it. So in reply to your question we have to say 'no'.

Secondly, we have to see the interest of the consumer so that he gets sugar at a reasonable price. Thirdly we have to see that the mills are economically viable. We had to import sugar which we are progressively reducing. We sell sufficient quantity and import as much less sugar as possible. We are considering all these things in the new Sugar Policy in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI : When will the new Sugar Policy come ? Will it come after the season ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : So far as the sugar cane minimum price for 1987-88 is concerned, we shall announce it very soon. We are doing this exercise. I think, perhaps, in a few days it will be known.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : The minimum statutory cane price is not at all remunerative and realistic and the several State Governments are announcing statutory price. The Government of India has increased levy sugar price to a great extent. Will the Government come out with a rational policy to pay the cane growers a remunerative price at least now because in some States the growers are going to make agitation to get remunerative

price ? Will the Government come out with that for the cane growers keeping in view the cost of cultivation ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : The hon. Member is aware that the minimum statutory sugar cane price is fixed as some kind of a support price so that if there is a lot of sugar cane they may at least get that. The price is determined by Central Government in consultation and on the advice of the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission which also takes into consideration various factors. As the hon. Member is aware, in his State and also in other States the actual price on which sugar cane is sold is on the advice of the State Governments. The State Governments advise the sugar mills to purchase sugar cane at a particular price. But actually they have been getting much more price than the minimum price which is fixed. Minimum price is only the support price so that if there is lot of sugar cane, the farmers do not suffer.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Ultra High Frequency Centre at Pithoragarh

*109. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site for the Ultra High Frequency (U.H.F.) centre proposed to be set up at Pithoragarh has been selected;

(b) if so, whether construction work of this centre has since been started; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the amount proposed to be spent on the construction work of this centre during the current financial year and the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.