

the proposal which is made in the original budgetary proposals of the work of gauge conversion between Mangalore and Hassan will have to be speeded up. The total cost estimated for this work is Rs. 185 crore. Out of this Rs. 185 crore which is required for completion of the gauge conversion work between Mangalore and Hassan, already Rs. 17 crore have been spent.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister of Food and Civil Supplies has written to the Hon'ble Speaker that he would be busy in Rajya Sabha at 5.30 P.M. and that if it is possible the Half-An-Hour Discussion slated for 5.30 P.M. may be postponed. Hon. Speaker has agreed to postpone it. So, I would like to take the consent of the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : If he is busy in the other House, then it may be done. My only request is that this discussion may be taken at 6.00 P.M. instead of 5.30 P.M. Tomorrow is the last day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The day after tomorrow is the last day, not tomorrow.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is an important issue. This discussion is Scheduled and 5.30 P.M. has been fixed for it. So, it may not be possible to continue it on the next day. I want that its time should be extended by half-an-hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us fix 6.30 P.M. or 6.00 P.M.

Hon. Speaker has postponed it for tomorrow, and that is why, I have brought it to your notice.

SHRI RAM NAIK : 6.00 P.M. may be fixed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There may be difficulty at 6.00 P.M. also, so I have proposed 6.30 P.M.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The business in the other House would come to an end at 6.00 P.M. and if this also does not suit him, we would wait till 6.15 P.M. instead of 6.00 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is not much difference between 6.00 P.M. and 6.15 P.M.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We also know that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right, we would take it up at 6.15 P.M. He has agreed for it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : O.K., let it be 6.00 P.M. we would see it at that time. He has come. If you have finished your business there, we can do it now itself.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Pudrauna) : I have given notice under Rule 193 four times, and for Calling Attention and for this also. Hon. Speaker had said that he would give me chance during half-an-hour discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The reason for which it was done, is no more present now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : it do not seem proper.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want?

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : We want that you take it up right now...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Take it up right now and give us chance also...(Interruptions) It does not matter that my name is not there, Hon. Speaker has said that he would give me opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot be done as per rules, only those Members can speak whose names are there.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : We have given notices for Calling Attention three or four times and also for half-an-hour discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am talking only about rules. I would see to it later on.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, what is the order for me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please continue later on.

17.33 hrs.

## HALF-AN-HOUR-DISCUSSION

### Sugar Development Council

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to begin Half-An-Hour discussion. It is regarding my starred Question No. 79 dated 26th November. I had asked three main things in that question and I want to mention them briefly.

Sir, my first question was : who are the member of Sugar Development Council and what are their functions? My Second question was : How many meetings of the Council were held during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and my fourth question was : whether the Government have received any recommendation of Sugar Development Council and the action taken by the Government thereon. The reply given to them did not satisfy me. So, I gave the notice for this discussion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the list of members of the Council given in the reply to the first question is a very long one. The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Food, New Delhi, is the Chairman of the Development Council. There are two Members of Lok Sabha in it : Shri Shankar Rao Kale and Shri Abhay

Pratap Singh. Both of them have been defeated in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. Yet, they are the members of the said Committee. Besides, the members of Rajya Sabha, Shri Shivaji Rao Patil is also there. But it is a high level Committee in which the main officers of all the states and Central Government are its members. I had asked about its function. It has been stated that its functions are very important. First function is :

[English]

"(1) Recommendation of targets for Sugar production, formulation of standard specifications and guidelines to specifications for plant and machinery of sugar factories incorporating the latest technology."

[Translation]

Secondly, it also states that a Sugar Development Council would be constituted which would provide information and guidance in regard to each project. In the end it also mentions the Policy regarding Sugar, i.e. :

[English]

"To act as a forum for review of Government Policy with regard to the sugar industry and make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government."

[Translation]

That is, the Council has to make recommendations regarding the Sugar Policy keeping in view the different circumstances, and on the basis of these recommendations the Government has to formulate its policy. Such things have been mentioned in the reply. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you would see, you would know about the situation. When question in this regard were asked in this House two-three times, the whole of the House was agitated. Sugar Industry in the biggest agricultural Industry in the Country and this Council has been constituted to issue guidelines to Sugar Industry. But I want to tell you that it has not done anything in this regard. This is the situation today.

My second question was as to how many meetings of the Council have been held from the year 1993 to 1996. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you would be surprised to know that this Council has held only one meeting in the last three years. The Council which have to make policy for the guidance of the Sugar Industry in the country, with regard to the specifications of the agricultural equipments to be used, that Council has held only one meeting in three years. The reason for the present condition of sugar Industry in the Country is that no one has ever paid any proper heed to it. Further, I had asked as to what were the

recommendations of the said Council? When there was no meeting in three years, what recommendation it could have made? That is why there is total mismanagement and confusion everywhere—be it in our Agricultural Industry of Sugar Mills or among Sugar traders. I want to know as to what would happen to our Sugar Industry? One thing that is happening due to it is that Sugarcane prices in the whole of the country are not uniform. The Sugarcane prices are not same in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. The High Court in its judgement has also mentioned the difficulties due to different prices. So, it is high time that we should have uniform price policy in this regard for whole of the country. I am from Maharashtra but I also care for Uttar Pradesh. Maharashtra has got advanced technology in comparison to the other States. All the Mills there use latest technology. About 40 percent of sugar is produced in Maharashtra alone. Secondly, the recovery of sugarcane in Maharashtra is more than those of other states. Uttar Pradesh comes next to Maharashtra but the recovery in Uttar Pradesh is less than Maharashtra. Therefore, modern technique should be used by the Sugar Mills in these States. So, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh have not been getting remunerative prices from the Sugar Mills. The farmers do not get even the fixed prices and their arrears remain outstanding against mills. On account of all this, Sugarcane farmers have been facing great hardships. To me, it is sheer criminal negligence of Government. There can not be any other soft word for it. This is the legacy of the previous Congress Government. We are hopeful that the new Government would do something...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Congress had improved the condition of the Sugar Mills...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : It has caused mismanagement and confusion when there was Congress Government in the Centre, it neither held a single meeting in three years nor discuss policy matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please don't make any comment, allow him to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It was all due to the contribution of the Congress. The new Government has said a meeting was called on 26th November. I want to know...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is addressing you and asking question from you.

SHRI RAM NAIK : When I asked the question in this regard, you said that a meeting was called on 26th November. Whether that meeting was held or not? What decisions were taken in that meeting? I would only say that if the meeting was held, please inform the House about it. The follow up in this regard is also equally important. I feel that sugarcane farmers should be immediately paid for their arrears whether they are in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka or Uttar Pradesh. The

Central Government should take this responsibility. The House must be informed as to what the Central Government wants to do in this regard.

The Central Government collects Development cess from all the Sugar Mills. The Central Government should refund this amount to them for the development of their machinery. Rules and precedents are there in this regard but I would like to give statistics regarding the total amount received and disbursed to the sugar Mills. In the year 1994-95, a total cess of Rs. 143.64 crore was collected from Sugar Mills.

The Govt. have withheld 65 percent of it. A sum of Rs. 152.68 crore was collected through the cess during 1995-96, out of which Rs. 49.74 crore were given. It means only 32 percent amount was provided and the Government kept 68 percent with it. Full amount of Cess should have been provided to Sugar Mills. Those mills which are to be modernised should be taken up on War footing in order to develop this industry.

There has been good production of Sugar in our Country. It is exported on large scale but prescribed standard is not being maintained. Khandsari sugar is being manufactured in Uttar Pradesh at present. When it is sold in the market and inspection is carried out it is told that it is not white sugar. They are paid at the rate of raw sugar. As a result, the farmers have to suffer.

An Export Council on Sugar was constituted. Now you are talking of repealing the Sugar Export Promotion Act. The Government is withdrawing the profit likely to accrue and the Control. The Government has asked the Development Council to present a Bill in this regard. Is it proper to bring such a Bill? Keeping in view all these points, I demand that the hon'ble Minister should give clear reply to all these questions. What is his opinion in this regard. If the Members of Lok Sabha who were in the Council have been defeated in the election or they have not fought the election, a decision should be taken to induct new members. At the same time, it may also be considered whether the Secretary should continue to function as Chairman of the Committee? Members of Parliament should work for bringing improvement in it. Is it appropriate to make some Members of Parliament as members of this Council and to make the Secretary as Chairman? A Minister can be appointed as Chairman but it is not proper to hand over the charge of Chairman to the Secretary and not call the meeting of the Council.

[English]

How do we exercise the Control?

[Translation]

I demand that the Government should bring a change in this system.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, my senior Colleague Shri Ram Naik has raised a very important issue. Sugarcane is known as a cash crop in our country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is there any point left after the speech of Shri Ram Naik?

SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Unfortunately, the Govt. is not concerned about it and it is a matter of concern that only one meeting of Development Council has been held during the period of last three years. It has been mentioned in Part C and D, as to what extent the prescribed targets have been achieved. The question does not arise as no action was taken in this regard. It is a very important matter. A senior colleague, Shri. Ram Nagina Mishra has been continuously raising the issue of arrears of growers and public sector Sugar Mills. Uttar Pradesh is facing many problems. We do not get assistance from anywhere whether it is a question of fund or cooperation. I do not understand as to how I should put my points before the Hon'ble Minister so that I can get proper reply from him. Most of the public sector mills in Uttar Pradesh are sick. I do not know if you have given amount which was received by you, to them in order to revive these mills. Problems are increasing continuously. The arrears of sugarcane has increased by one thousand crore rupees, In this regard, Allahabad High Court has delivered its judgement that if the societies do not make payment of the cane within 14 days, interest should be paid on this amount. The judgements of Court have raised more problems.

In this Context, I would like to point out that hon'ble Prime Minister made an announcement to set up 26 Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh. The Development Council recommends the target for Sugar Production. At the time of its constitution, Sugar Scam was going on. Everybody knows about it. I do not want to go into the details. I would like to raise some points. I want that hon'ble Minister should reply according to my points, as the Development Council has not discharged its duties. It is not proper if you appoint such a person as Chairman. Out of 24 Members, 13 Members are non-government and it seems improper that Members of Parliament have been working under the President, as Shri Ram Naik has said. People representatives and the representatives of regional cooperative societies have been included in this Council. They have not called any meeting and if there had been a non-government member, a meeting would have been held definitely and problems would have been solved. I want that hon'ble Minister should provide clear information on Some more issues.

What is the condition of Govt. Mills? What is their position in regard to the payment of arrear how would the sick mills be revived and what is the policy of Govt. regarding the declaration of setting up of new Sugar

Mills? What is your policy in respect of providing interest on the payment of loan if it is not made in time? There are many incomplete Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh. There is a Sugar Mill in Bareilly which has been lying in the same condition for the last five years.

The land has been acquired but Sugar Mill is not being established. One of my colleagues has said is that there is a Sugar Mill in Jahangirpur under Jwal legislative Constituency which is under construction but Govt. have not formulated any policy in this regard. If the Development Council had functioned properly, these problem would not have arisen and some solution would have been found out. I wish that the Development Council should be made a viable unit. It also appears to be a sick unit. It should be made such a unit which would work properly and resolve our problems.

It may appear to you that I have put many questions, but I request you to please reply to all these questions. You have been with me for five years and I know your ability. As just you have given a very clear opinion on wheat, in the same way, I want that proper arrangement should be made in this regard and the Development Council should start its function properly so that you do face this type of question. I want that you should express your clear views in this regard.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in brief. I would like to know from hon'ble Minister some information about the cane growers in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, payment of the year 1995-96 has not been made so far to the cane growers and during the year 1996-97, cane growers could not sow wheat in time as Mills were started late in the month of November. This year too, Sugar Mill owners are not making payment as per the orders of High Court. Whether the hon'ble Minister would grant permission of Vacuum Pan for small khandsari Unit in order to reduce the dependence of cane growers on the Sugar Mills and to check the arbitrary functioning of Mill owners and to save three percent national loss? Moreover, whether he would make a provision to issue Sugar license to such small Units which are crushing five thousand quintal cane everyday and keep them from of levy. I would like to mention about Vacuum Pan. Today, the recovery of Small Khandsari Unit is six percent and after permission Vacuum Pan the quality of Sugar would improve and its recovery would increase by ten percent. They would generate power by their own boiler and in this way, they would run their Unit themselves. As a result, job opportunities would increase in rural areas and farmers would get better price for cane.

Secondly, I would like to submit that Government of India had issued license to the Sugar Mills during 1995-96 but no mill has constructed new Sugar Mills so far. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether any provision would be made to grant exemption

under levy exemption scheme to the Sugar mills which have been issued license during the year 1995-96 as was done before 31 March, 1994, so that the crushing capacity of cane growers could increase in the whole country.

Thirdly, I would like to know the time by which the payment of the year 1995-96 would be made to the farmers and by when the price of Rs. 76 per quintal would be given to the Cane growers, which is fixed by Uttar Pradesh Government.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that nobody has drawn attention towards the mode of functioning of the Sugar Industry Development Council. So far as the objective of this Council is concerned, it is obvious that it will recommend about the target for the production of Sugar, ponder over the latest technique of the Sugar factory. It will also work for increasing technical efficiency, production of Sugarcane and think over the Sugarcane policy. This Council will also put up appropriate recommendations for the consideration of the Government after reviewing the Co-operative policy. Measures will be taken for the modernisation of Sugar Mills in the country. In this way though, all the objectives have been mentioned but it seems that no step has been taken to achieve these objectives. Two meetings of the Council were held on 23.12.93 and 26.11.96 respectively during the period 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. The Government might have implemented the decisions taken during these two meetings. This House has not been made aware of it so far. Nobody is concerned about the situation of the sugar industry which is deteriorating day by day and the loss being incurred on account of degradation of its quality and capacity. Nobody is bothered about the outstanding payment of the farmers and about the development of Sugarcane. Today, the farmers are facing many difficulties. There is a shortage of power and water due to which sugarcane produced has been affected. Moreover if payment is not made intime, it is a direct loss.

Sir, the situation of Madhya Pradesh is worse. In Madhya Pradesh, sugar mills are not producing sugar according to their capacity because these mills have not been modernised. Nobody is concerned that the sugarcane areas should be developed. Therefore, all these activities be included in your objectives. Through you, I would like to know as to what steps you are going to take to achieve these objectives. There are three sugar mills in my constituency. The Govindram Sugar Mill situated at Mahidpur road, Jawara sugar mill and Daloda sugar mill. Sugar mills are not being running intime. Mahidpur sugar mill has to face struggle. The Sugarcane growers do not get payment for their produce. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government for the development of

sugarcane modernisation of sugar mills and for payment of the outstanding dues of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh.

I also want to know whether the Government propose to take concrete steps to run the Mahidpur, Daloda and Jawra Sugar Mills.

17.55 hrs.

(Shri P.C. Chacko *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Sir, the earlier speakers have already highlighted the various points regarding the progress made by the Sugar Industry Development Council. This is one industry which makes a lot of change in the rural area apart from the fact that it gives a net income of about Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 crore to the nation. This agro-based industry deals with farmers and workers which constitute the majority population of the country.

The objectives, that are give in the Statement, are very well but these objectives are not properly executed. All those objectives have already been highlighted by earlier speakers. You will be surprised to know that in three years only one meeting was held. I would like to read only one objective, out of the four objectives mentioned in the note and I quote :

"Through its Standing Research Advisory Committee various research projects are recommended for funding through the Sugar Development Fund and such projects are aimed at meeting the technical efficiency of the factories as also the yield and quality of cane."

As per my knowledge almost Rs. 1778 crore has been collected as Sugar Development Fund and out of this hardly Rs. 864 crore has been given to the sugar factories which are in difficulty. This fund was particularly meant for modernisation. This was a sort of grant-in-aid for development. You will be surprised to see that only Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore per annum grant-in-aid was given to various research and other related works. This clearly shows the total negligence by the executors of the benefit of bringing in new technology or doing the renovation work in the sugar industry. I also wonder that in three years both the Sugar Development Council as also the Standing Research Advisory Committee might not have met even once. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether these sort of meetings were conducted by the Standing Research Advisory Committee; if so, what were the recommendations with regard to specifications of the sugar factories, or to get the better quality of sugarcane or to get the better quality of sugar. As per my knowledge, most of the sugar that is being manufactured

in India, does not conform to the international standards. This type of quality work has not been done by this Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question and conclude your speech.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : I would only like to put a question regarding the various objectives that have already been highlighted in the note. What type of work these various Committees and Councils have carried out in arriving at the specifications of the machinery, latest technology and various standards that have been set with regard to sugar factories.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may reply now.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE (Kopergaon) : I would like to make a point, Sir. It is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Sir, hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker had said it that day too.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot speak without giving a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Sir, I have given a notice but it has not been figured in the ballot.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given a notice.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Sir, I have also given a notice but Sir, I hail from the Sugarcane area. I have only one question. Please allow me to ask it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not permitted.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when there was a question on sugar during Question Hour yesterday, I requested the Chair that it would be better if more Members were allowed, as a special case, to ask supplementaries, on the half-an-hour discussion that was going to be taken up. At that time he ruled that it would be done. That is what the hon. Deputy Speaker had said.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you have said is correct, that is what had happened yesterday. But the rules do not permit me to allow more than four Members. Names

of a few Members were received late. So, please understand that we cannot allow more than four Members who have already been allowed.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Sugar Industry Development Council is an advisory council which is constituted under section 51 and 6 of Industrial Development Regulation Act 1951 but as per the existing rule, there is a provision in this Act to constitute a committee of 25 members in the Development Council. The Department of Industries notifies it and the Ministry of Food recommends it. A committee consisting of 24 members including its Chairman was constituted. Its main function of this Committee is to give suggestions for the interest of Sugar industry. Sugar Mill owners, representatives of Sugar mills, farmers, persons having experience of technology and consumers are also given representation in this committee. Officials are also included in the committee. The newly constituted Committee consists of 24 members and is headed by the Secretary to the Department of Food, Government of India. If the hon'ble Members are not aware of it, I will apprise them of the list later on.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Committee was constituted on 4.6.93 for a term of two years. The term of this Committee was over on 3.6.95 automatically. I has its unique history. When you asked a question and did not satisfy with the reply and you had made a demand for half an hour discussion, I realised it. It has a unique history which I want to narrate you. The then Secretary Shri A.C. Sen had called a meeting on 15.9.94 but he was transferred before it. After that Shri C.C. Tripathi had been the Secretary for a short period i.e. from 8.9.94 to 10.10.94. When he called a meeting of this committee he was also transferred...*(Interruptions)* Please listen the reply to the question raised by you. I have given reply to this question in the Rajya Sabha also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Sir, the previous Government had done wrong things. Please leave it. Now you should become its Chairman and resolve the existing problems as a fresh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Let the Minister complete his reply.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the term of the committee was over on 3.6.95 and it was reconstituted on 23.2.96.

General elections were held in April and May, 1996. You know that during that period elections for Jammu Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh Legislative assemblies were held therefore the meeting of this committee could not be convened. The new Government came into power

on 1st June at the Centre. Election for State legislative assembly were held after general election. This committee comprises elected members from all over the country. This Government came into power on 1st June and during its tenure the first meeting of this committee was held on 26.11.96. Shri Naik Sahib has asked about the decisions taken in that meeting. In that meeting proceeding of earlier meeting had been reviewed, deliberations were made about the standing committee and ways and means to modernise the Sugar mills. This is the position with regard to the committee. The constitution of the committee took some time. I would like to say all this because two members of the committee were from Lok Sabha and all the secretaries associated with it had been transferred. The two members from Lok Sabha lost the election. They were not reelected...*(Interruptions)* This was the main reason for not convening the meeting...*(Interruptions)* Now we shall think of it in the new situation. Now the committee includes an hon. Member from Rajya Sabha. Two consultative committees of this committee are also constituted. The first is standing on Research Advisory Committee and other is standing Advisory Committee on Sugar standard. The basic function of this committee is to make recommendation for introduction of sugar standards for each year or for ten years for the use of sugar factories, traders, the Government or the institutions. The hon. Member has mentioned about the standing committees. The main function of Research Advisory Committee is to make recommendations with regard to research work connected with sugar industry, development and modernisation of sugarmills. This committee will make recommendations after scrutiny of proposals regarding research project and plans received from sugar mills or scientific organisation or other concerned organisation. These are the functions of this Committee. The hon. Shri Naik ji is a veteran member. He had asked several questions and explained the problems that are being confronted by sugarcane growers. The hon. members had asked several questions in this regard and I had replied those questions. The payment of sugarcane is outstanding. The total outstanding dues of the sugarcane growers of the Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 3455 crore it means arrears of Rs. 3455 crore have to be paid to them. So far Rs. 3202 crore have been paid to the sugarcane growers which comes to about 92.6 percentage of the total outstanding dues. This is the report 15 days ago but yesterday. I reviewed the situation and it worked out around 94 percentage. Payment is being done and outstanding dues will also be paid.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Rs. 700-800 crores are outstanding as yet. You are giving wrong figure or prove us wrong.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I think you are asking about the entire country. I have given figures pertaining to a State.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Rs. 3400 crores are outstanding and you are saying that Rs. 3200 crores have been paid. Kindly look into it. Your Department has furnished wrong information to you.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I would like to inform you that Rs. 542 crores have been sanctioned for modernisation of sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund. Out of this Rs. 494 crore have been disbursed and that is in the process...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Kindly tell me how much fund has been collected from farmers by the Government?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I will give you statewise figure.

I would like to tell about the opening of the sugar mills. There are about 117 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Out of them 107 sugar mills have been opened till yesterday evening. About the remaining sugar mill I have written a letter to the hon. Governor of the state. The Secretary of my Ministry has also written letters to the chief secretaries of all the states concerned to take steps to open sugar mills and inform us immediately. I think all the sugarmills which are not defund will certainly be re-opened within one month. Last year upto 15th of this month crushing of Sugercane had started in the 323 Sugermills throughout the country. This year crushing of sugarcane has started in 321 mills. The ratio is the same. Last year crushing season was a bit long. This year overhauling of sugarmill took sometime. Some mills are facing labour problem, some mills are having financial constraints whereas in certain mills there are one problems in machinery. But the modernise mills about which Shri Gangwar has asked the questions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : What steps are being taken about the defunct mills. Two mills are closed in my constituency. Such a situation is prevailing all over the country. What do you want to tell about this. You are telling that sugercane is not being crushed but what steps the Government wants to take about the closed sugar mills.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The question is pertains to the Sugar Development Council only. But you can ask the question. While I am replying you are making interruptions...*(Interruptions)* I have replied to the original question. The hon. members can ask any other question. I am will reply to other questions within 1-2 minutes. I want to reciprocate the feelings expressed by the Hon. Member...*(Interruptions)* But you are making interruptions.

There are three criterias for setting up of a new sugarmill in any area first, there should be availability of sugarcane in that area. The second criteria is that there should not be any other sugar mill within 25 kms.

but that area has been reduced to 15 Kms. If distance between the two sugar mills is atleast 15 Kms, permission for setting up of a new sugar mill there can be accorded. We can send that proposal to the Ministry. The third criteria is that the State concern should recommend the proposal for setting up a new sugar mill. The Government has fixed this criteria for setting up of a new sugar mill. The Government has no objection if anybody intends to set up new sugermill on the basis of this criteria. The Government wants that more and more sugarmills be set up and more sugar be produced. That is why there was record production of 164 lakh ton of sugar last year and this year too—there is possibility of touching this markum.

The hon. member has asked about vacuum pan, Khandsari and small scale industries. In principal the Government is in favour promoting the small scale industries. There will be a technical problem in installing vacuum pan. In this regard I would like to seek further opinion of the hon. member. Under this scheme the Khandsari industry will also be treated as a big industry. The hon. Members should keep in mind that if rules applicable to big industry will be applied to Khandsari industry then how be their interests be safeguarded. Just now you have said that the Government will seriously consider taking over the Khandsari unit having 5000 crushing capacity.

In your second supplementary you have said that 31st March...*(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. I remember our question. After 31st March, 1994 no incentive has been given to sugar mills. At present payment of arrears is being made to the sugar mills whose dues are outstanding. Farmers are attracted towards co-operative farming and producing more and more sugarcane. We will certainly reconsider as to how incentives be given to the sugar mill setup after 31st March, 1996. We will certainly take positive decision in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Beed) : Yesterday, I had asked a different question...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This discussion is completed.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Reply to any question is not given...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ram Naik, you know the rules very well we cannot continue like this.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : I had asked two questions  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Reply of those issues has not been given which form the basis of this discussion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not, not allowed please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : I shall complete the question regarding sugarcane within a minute.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, have you completed your answer?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Completed, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Nothing has been mentioned about repealing Export Promotion Council Act...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. This you can take up later and not now. You cannot continue like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Today it is an important question that the issue on which his discussion has taken place...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not allowed, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, he is replying...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he is not replying. He is not allowed. He has completed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Minister want to give answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, you take your seat.

This Half-an-Hour discussion is completed. Now we take up next item.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please resume your seat? We cannot allow this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : He wants to reply and you are not allowing him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have asked him specifically, he says, he has completed his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, he is ready to reply...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Ram Naikji please understand. You know the rules very well. It is not allowed. I asked the Minister he has completed or not. He said very specifically that he had completed his reply. Now no further discussion is allowed on this. We take up item No. 19 discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways)

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sarpotdarji, please you take your seat.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, this is a very vital issue, one should not forget this...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : The Minister has already brought a Bill on that...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, the concerned Minister is prepared to give the reply...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Please take your seat

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing can be heard if all of you speak like this. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us take a decision. I understand it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait. So, if you want a reply to the specific question put by Shri Ram Naikji, the Minister can reply to that. No further questions will be allowed.

I cannot allow all of you. Otherwise I am not allowing this also. As per rules, this is not permitted, but as all



of your are asking, I am requesting the Minister to reply to the question put by Shri Ram Naik.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up item no. 19, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, we have a meeting of the IPG at 6.30 p.m. today which is convened by the hon. Speaker. Can the House and that meeting go together simultaneously? How can we attend that meeting?... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, my suggestion is that we can continue this debate and those who want to go there, they can go. As there are many Members who would like to participate in this discussion, those who want to speak can remain here. Let us continue this discussion. This is my suggestion... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I agree with him... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, I would like to ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as to when the House will take up the discussion regarding deterioration in the standard of sports in the country. This item has been listed since the 16th of December but this item has not yet been taken up... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Tomorrow... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Everyday this has been placed for tomorrow. This is the third day which has been listed on the Agenda and nothing has been said about this. I would like the Minister to tell as to when this item will be taken up... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will be discussing that but we have to complete the other items.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : For the last three days, this item has been listed on the Agenda... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to follow the List of Business. You are given an assurance that the House will be discussing that and you should be satisfied with that... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I would like to make one point that this item, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) should be completed today and after that no other business should be taken up... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Okay.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : How long will it take? We can sit tomorrow also.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : It has to go to Rajya Sabha also. If we will not sit and pass it today, it may not go to Rajya Sabha tomorrow.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It can go to Rajya Sabha day after tomorrow also.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Day after tomorrow is Friday.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to make a request to all the hon. Members that certain things are being discussed in the BAC and we have to flow them. Yesterday also we had postponed certain items which were very very important. These are not the matters in the Government's interest alone and these are the matters which are in the interest of the House. So, I request cooperation from all of you. After completing this item, I think, there are some other important items which we have to complete and these items have to go to Rajya Sabha also. So, I hope, all of you will cooperate.

Now, I request Shri Dhananjaya Kumar to continue his speech on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

18.24 hrs.

#### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS)—Contd.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was referring to an ongoing gauge conversion work between Mangalore and Hassan. The total estimated cost is Rs. 185 crore. Out of which, a sum of Rs. 17 crore had already been spend and in the Railway Budget for the year 1996-97, the hon. Railway Minister has made a provision of Rs. 30 crore for the completion of this work.

Sir, I would like to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister that to justify the proposal made at Item No. 3, i.e. taking up the new Hassan-Bangalore line via Shravanabelgola, if the on-going work between Mangalore and Hassan could be speeded up, then he can very well justify the inclusion of this new work.

Sir, I would also like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that Mangalore is a port town. It is fast developing and it requires a direct rail link from Bangalore and also, as I have already submitted, from the East Coast, i.e. from Chennai. So, if an additional provision is made for speeding up the gauge conversion work between Mangalore and Hassan, it will serve the purpose. There is nothing like that. At present, the train which was in operation between Mangalore and Bangalore has been stopped for the last four months. Many of the daily commuters, specially, the daily and monthly wage earners find it very difficult to travel ever