

Closure of Sugar Mills in Madhya Pradesh

1696. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mills under sugar corporations in Madhya Pradesh, lying closed at present;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether Government have received report on these closed mills from Sugar Technology Mission;

(d) if so, whether Government have any proposal to restart these mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to achieve the targets in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREE NIVASA PRASAD): (a) & (b) There are two sugar mills of the M.P. State Industries Corporation Ltd., namely, Mahidpur Road and Jaora. As per available information, the Mahidpur Road unit of the M.P. State Industries Corporation Ltd., has not worked during the current crushing season as also during sugar seasons 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (October-September). No information indicating the specific reason for its closure has been received from the concerned sugar mill or the State Government. However, there may be variety of reasons for its closure such as inadequate cane availability, unviable size, obsolete plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetance, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation etc.

(c) According to the Sugar Technology Mission, no reference has been received from the closed sugar mills for any purpose, whatsoever.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) to (f) As the Mahidpur Road Sugar mill belongs to M.P. State Industries Corporation Ltd., a State Government undertaking, necessary action for re-starting this sugar are to be taken by the said corpn./State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Stockpiles of Jaggery in A.P.

1697. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jaggery traders in Andhra Pradesh are stuck with huge stockpiles of over 3000 tonnes; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to help the farmers in disposing of the stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREE NIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Jaggery or gur is a cottage industry product and Government does not monitor the stocks of jaggery with the traders etc.

Office Building for district fora Maharashtra

1698. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has requested by its D.O. letter CPA-1096/152/CR/3621.CP.4 dated August 31, 1998 for frant of about Rs. 3 crores for construction of Office buildings for districts fora, set-up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(b) if so, who no amount has been paid so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREE NIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, To supplement Maharashtra Government's efforts, the Central Government has released a financial assistance of Rs. 3.6 crores under one-time grant scheme to strengthen the infrastructure of one State Commission and 31 district fora which were functioning in Maharashtra at the time of