

(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 DISTRBUTION (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

approval of the Scheme by the Planning Commission. The request of the Maharashtra Government for additional financial assistance of Rs. 3.0 crores for a construction of the office building for the district fora could not be acceded to as the Central Government has no Scheme, as of now, to extend further financial support to the States and UTs.

### Central Assistance for Strengthening PDS in States

1699. SHRI A. VIJAYA. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to strengthen the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what assistance has been given by the Central Government to States in this regard;

(d) whether the Central Government would give any assistance to State Governments to expand PDS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in all the areas including rural areas, the State Governments/UTs have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees at various levels draw up inspection schedules right from Collector/District Magistrate to the Inspector of Supplies and take measures to introduce greater transparency in the working of the system. A Model Citizens' Charter for TPDS has also been prepared and circulated to the States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard, food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government have sought more substantial involvement of Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of PDS specially at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) level as a measure of social audit. Guidelines have been