

appeals must also fail. Cost, cost in the cause."

Any further action in the matter has to be taken in the light of the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 23.7.1996.

Action Plan for Modernisation and Expansion of Sugar Milb in Uttar Pradesh

2774. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for modernisation and expansion of the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the works undertaken under the action plan, mill-wise; and

(c) the plan of the Central Government for the next year in this regard, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Action plan for modernisation and expansion of sugar mills is prepared and proposed by the mill authorities themselves. Assistance in this regard is provided from the Sugar Development Fund.

63 sugar mills have been granted loan assistance of Rs. 223.46 crores for modernisation and expansion from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Discrepancies in the Records of Stocks of Foodgrains in Punjab

2775. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether stocks of foodgrains in Punjab were found short to the tune of 1 million tonnes worth Rs.200 crores on physical verification as compared to the actual record of the Food Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken against the persons involved in the scheme; and

(d) whether Government plan to verify the records of other states in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Food Corporation of India has reported that at the time of annual physical verification ending March, 1996 certain shortage in respect of Corporation's stocks in Punjab were noticed, the details of which are given below:—

(Rs. crores)

Commodity	Shortages	Value
Wheat	97 MTs	0.01
Rice	607 MTs	0.46
(Sub-standard)		
Paddy	17,602 MTs	8.90
(1994-95)		

The shortages could be on account of negligence and malafide action on the part of FCI employees and rice millers for which departmental proceedings and criminal cases have been initiated respectively.

(d) FCI conducts quarterly physical verification of stocks.

Decision regarding mode of disinvestment of shares of PSUs

2776. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision regarding the mode of disinvestment of shares of Public Sector Units; and

(b) the new strategies chalked out to restructure the public sector units so as to make some of them global giants in order

to meet the challenge of multinational corporations;

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A Disinvestment Commission has been set up which will advise the Government. On various aspects of disinvestment of PSU shares inclusive of the mode of disinvestment.

(b) Evolving strategies for restructuring is a continuous process.

Declaration of Kanpur Dehat as Industrially Backward District

2777. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kanpur Dehat of Uttar Pradesh has been declared as industrially backward district;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some industrial units or ask State Government to set up certain industrial units to remove backwardness of the district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There is no scheme at present with the Government of India, Ministry of industry under which a district is declared backward. Industrial development is primarily, the responsibility of the State Government and the Central Government only supports and supplements their efforts.

Patent's (Amendment) Bill

2778. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Nav Bharat Times" dated 11th August; 1996 under the

caption of "Patents Kannon Main Aavashyak Sanshodhan Ki Salah";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As a signatory to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement, India has certain obligations. The WTO Agreement, *inter-alia*, contains an agreement on Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in respect of provisions concerning Intellectual Property Rights. Apart from the obligations which arose from January 1, 1995, India has time till January 1, 2000 to implement its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

Independent Quality control Laboratories

2789. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any independent quality control laboratory (not under concerned administration) for testing food samples; and

(b) if so, the details of the tests at random samples taken, number of samples, etc. during the last three years and action taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Food Laboratories functioning under the States/Local Bodies undertake analysis of samples of food articles lifted by Food Inspectors of the concerned States under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. These Laboratories also carry out analysis of samples of food articles sent by a purchaser or recognised consumer association..