

†Excise Duty on Sugar

*316. SHRI B. D. BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Commerce has pleaded for a downward revision of excise duty on sugar; and

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir. Excise duty at 20 per cent and 37½ per cent *ad valorem* continues to be leviable on levy and free sale sugar respectively since 15-12-1973.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendations of the Sugar Industry Commission

*461. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision on the various recommendations of the Sugar Industry Commission; and

(b) if so, which of the recommendations have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir; on some of the recommendations.

(b) The important recommendations accepted and implemented are:—

(i) fixation of the basic recovery at 8.5 per cent for determining the

minimum cane prices payable by factories;

(ii) allowing premium in cane price for higher recoveries on full proportionality basis;

(iii) sharing equally of higher realisations from sale of free sugar by factories with cane-growers.

*462. [Transferred to the 12th December, 1974.]

Water as National Asset

*463. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to declare water as a national asset;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to amend the Constitution to transfer the entry 'Water' from the State list to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether the State Governments have been consulted in the matter, and if so, what are their views?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH): (a) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) and (d) A proposal for constituting a high power National Water Resources Council to evolve a national water policy and guide its implementation and to resolve inter-State water disputes expeditiously has been under consideration for some time. As a

†Transferred from the 26th November, 1974.

first step, proposals to amend some provisions in the Constitution were referred to the State Governments for their comments. While a few States expressed themselves against the amendments, most of the States felt that the scope of the amendments should be limited to disputes on inter-State waters only and that the existing powers of the States in regard to the use and control of water should continue as heretofore. The matter is under further study in the light of the views expressed by the State Governments.

T.M.S.S. Mahal Library, Tanjor

*464. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to preserve the collection of rare books and manuscripts in the Tanjore Maharajan Saryoji Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Central Government for the project; and

(d) by when the amount would be made available for the project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) to (d) Government are working out details of a scheme which will enable them to extend assistance to the T.M.S.S.M. Library, Thanjavur, for, among other things, the preservation of its collection of rare books and manuscripts. A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimates 1974-75 for assistance to the Library as a part of a Fifth Plan scheme involving a proposed outlay of Rs. 20 lakhs.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम कार्यालय, संबलपुर के पास गेहूँ के स्टॉक में पाई गई अनियमितताएं

*465. श्री सीता राम सिंह : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उड़ीसा के संबलपुर में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के खाद्यान्नों के स्टॉक को गत वर्ष कितनी बार जांच की गयी और उसमें क्या क्या अनियमितताएं पाई गईं ;

(ख) क्या भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने स्टॉक में अनियमितताओं सम्बन्धी शिकायतों पर कोई कार्यवाही की है ; और

(ग) क्या उक्त कार्यालय में निगम द्वारा स्टॉक के संबंध में रखे गए हिस्साब किताब के बारे में भी कोई अनियमितताएं पाई गई हैं ?

†[Irregularities in the wheat stock in the F.C.I. office Sambhalpur (Orissa)]

*465 SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the food-grains stocks of the Food Corporation of India in Sambhalpur in Orissa were checked during the last year and irregularities found therein;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India has taken any action on the complaints about the irregularities in stocks; and

(c) whether any irregularities have also been found in the accounts maintained by the Corporation regarding the wheat stock at that office?]

†[] English translation.