

**Statutory Status to Minorities
Commission**

597. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to accord statutory status to the Minorities Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration.

**Welfare Schemes for SCs & STs in
Himachal Pradesh**

598. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the welfare schemes proposed to be included in the Eighth Plan for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes (OBCs) of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): The requisite information is being collected from Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Foodgrain Production Target

599. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain production target would be lower during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total percentage that the production target would be lowered; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments to achieve the production targets fixed for different crops, Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Special Foodgrain Production Programme (SFPP) of wheat, Maize and Millets and Pulses; Integrated - Programme of Rice Development (IPRD), Minikit Programme of cereals, Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) and Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers (ASMF) for Shallow Tubewells/Dugwells are being implemented in various States.

[Translation]

Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission

600. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI RATILAL VERMA:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed during the recent meeting of Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission; and

(b) the outcome thereof?