

**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?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). The first meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission at the Foreign Minister's level was held in Delhi from 5th to 7th January 1992. The Joint Commission reviewed the work of the two Sub-commissions on Trade, Investment and Finance and on Cultural, Social and Educational matters which had met in Colombo in October 1991 and gave directions for their future work. Both sides agreed to set up a third Sub-Commission on Science and Technology in order to give impetus to cooperation in this sector between the Governments and the Scientific communities in the two countries.

In addition, discussions between the two sides centred on cooperation in the field of production and export of tea and the Indian participation in maintenance and upgrading of Sri Lankan Railways, and also in spheres of Telecommunications, oil exploration agriculture and small-scale industries. Suggestions to implement mutually agreed items from the cultural Exchange Programme signed by the two countries in October 1991 were also discussed.

The Governments of India and Sri Lanka reiterated their commitment to strengthen and diversify bilateral cooperation through the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission.

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New Agricultural Policy

601. DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYAR-
AGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to present a new agricultural policy during the current session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A draft of an Agricultural Policy Resolution for mulated in March, 1991 had been circulated to the States/UTs and State Agricultural Universities eliciting their comments. 21 States/UTs and Universities have sent their comments so far. The matter is under consideration.

[English]

390-91
Migration from Myanmar

602. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:
SHRI KAMLA MISHRA
MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number or persons who migrated to India from Myanmar due to military action;

(b) whether any assistance has been provided to such migrants;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the frequent armed clashes between the