

the location of the proposed institutes;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the State Government has agreed to provide land and other facilities for the purpose;
- (f) if so, the time by which the proposed Institutes are likely to be established; and
- (g) the amount earmarked for the same during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The following Committee was constituted to visit states offering land and suggest the location to establish the proposed Institute.

1. Dr. B.K. Soni	Chairman
2. Dr. S.P. Arora	Member
3. Dr. G.C. Mohonty	Member
4. Dr. P.N. Langar	Member
5. Dr. Kiran Singh	Member Secretary

- (c) Yes, Madam.
- (d) The above Committee has recommended that the proposed Institute may be established at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- (e) Yes, Madam.
- (f) The National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology has started functioning from 24th November, 1995 at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- (g) The amount earmarked for this Institute is Rs. 170.00 lakhs for the year 1995-96.

Taj Mahal

262. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scientific study has been conducted about the likely damage from the launching of Light and Sound shows at the Taj;
- (b) if so, the conclusion about the extent of damage likely to result to the Taj on this account; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise. There is no proposal for a Sound and Light show at Taj Mahal.
- (c) Does not arise.

Public Distribution System

263. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Loopholes in PDS network spell doom for tribals" appeared in "The Statesman", dated July 20, 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the Adivasis get foodgrains intended for them; and
- (d) the action taken against those indulging in malpractices of serious nature under PDS ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government arranges for the procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of key essential commodities for the PDS to the State Governments. Operational responsibility for actual distribution of the commodities to the consumers is that of the State Governments. Government of Maharashtra has reported that based on the findings of an enquiry conducted into the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Dahanu Tahsil, licences of three FPSs have been suspended. FIRs have been lodged against all the irregularities and disciplinary action taken against officials/officers involved. Government of Maharashtra has reported that the District Supply Officer of Thane District has been transferred and the Tehsildar, Dahanu has been sent on compulsory leave. Government of Maharashtra have further reported that alternate arrangements have been made to reach foodgrains in Dahanu Tahsil.

(c) Central Government has been advising all the State Governments including Government of Maharashtra to ensure all arrangements for proper stocking and distribution of PDS commodities particularly in areas covered under the Revamped PDS (RPDS). State Governments have been requested to ensure door step delivery of PDS commodities to the FPSs and to constitute FPS level vigilance committees of consumers to prevent diversion of PDS commodities. Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments for the purchase of vans/trucks to be used as mobile FPSs or as door step delivery vehicles in the RPDS areas. Central Government also provides financial assistance to State Governments for construction of godowns of upto 2000 M.T. capacity in the RPDS areas.

(d) Power under the Essential Commodities Act have been delegated to State Governments for taking action against persons indulging in such malpractices. Details of action taken by State Governments against FPSs are not maintained by the Central Government.