

matters relating to the distribution of commodities to the consumers within their State/UT. The Central Government has taken a number of measures to ensure that the items issued to the States/UTs for the PDS are of good quality. All necessary quality control measures are being implemented by the concerned central agencies. Central Government has also allowed the State Governments/UTs and their nominees to check the quality of food grain in every lot before they accept the same. State Governments have been given the right to reject lots which are not conforming to the prescribed standards.

The Central Government has advised the State Governments to introduce Door Step Delivery of PDS commodities to the Fair Price Shops in the areas covered under Revamped PDS and to constitute Fair Price Shop Vigilance Committees of the consumers to supervise the distribution so that good quality foodgrains to consumers is ensured. Complaints in respect of inferior quality of foodgrains made available to the Fair Shops or sold by Fair Price Shops are dealt with at the district/sub-divisional level administrations for speedy and effective redressal of grievances. However, in an operation of such a vast magnitude such as PDS involving more than four lakhs Fair Price Shops in the country. A few short-comings here and there cannot be ruled out. The Central Government does not maintain the details of specific cases relating to malpractices at Fair Price Shop level, as the powers to enforce the provisions of Essential Commodities Act have been delegated to the State Governments.

#### Spreading of Deserts

280. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area in hectares declared as desert-affected in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any effective scheme to check spreading of desert in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the expenditure estimated to be incurred on implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### P.G.Ts in Kendriya Vidyalayas

281. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some PGTs of Kendriya Vidyalayas posted in Delhi have been sacked in April, 1995 on the ground that they had written direct to the Prime Minister

inviting his attention to the alleged widespread administrative and financial corruption in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan during 1991-94; asking for an impartial and high level inquiry to ascertain the degree of ruin that had since been wrought;

(b) if so, the details therefore;

(c) whether the present chairman of Kendriya Vidyalayas had been requested to review such cases; and

(d) if so, the result/progress of the said review process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) It is not true that some PGTs have been sacked by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for writing to Prime Minister. After following the procedure prescribed for disciplinary cases, the KVS imposed the penalty of compulsory retirement on one of the PGTs in Delhi in April, 1995 for charges involving financial irregularities and other acts of mis-conduct.

(c) and (d) As per the procedure, the employees of KVS are entitled to prefer an appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Authority to the Appellate Authority. As per information furnished by the KVS, the employee concerned did not prefer any such appeal to the Appellate Authority within the time limit prescribed.

#### Pooyamkutty Power Project

282. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question No. 2762 given on 22nd August, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the Pooyamkutty Power Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the Government have ever sent any team to Kerala to make an indepth study about the disastrous consequence on the environment if the project is cleared; and

(e) if so, the findings of the team thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c), Even though, the environmental clearance for 240 MW Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project, Kerala was accorded in June, 1985, the matter regarding diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A Multi-disciplinary Team constituted by the Ministry visited the area to examine the related environmental and ecological aspects of the project. The Team expressed its apprehensions about the likely adverse impacts on the environment and ecology.