

(b) It is presumed that ULFA has issued threats in order to pressurise the Government for the relaxation of operations by the Unified Headquarters against ULFA.

(c) and (d) ULFA has reportedly expressed willingness for talks provided (1) These are held in a third country (2) In the presence of a UN representative (3) Sovereignty of Assam is also discussed.

(e) and (f) The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. No talks have been initiated with the terrorist outfits operating in Assam, as they have not indicated their willingness for talks within the above parameter and are continuing with violence. The Government of India is against all manifestations of violence.

Funds for Streamlined PDS

5961. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide sufficient funds to the State Governments for the survey and identification of population living below the poverty line and issuing special ration cards to them to make the new proposed streamlined public distribution system scheme a success;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for each state for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Responsibility for implementation of PDS including conduct of survey and issue of ration cards vests with State Governments/UT Administrations. However, under the Targeted PDS guidelines, the quinquennial surveys made by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for implementation of IRDP, etc. on households living below Poverty Line can be taken as basis provided the overall number is limited within BPL population fixed by the Union Planning Commission adopting the methodology of the Expert Group headed by Late Prof. Lakdawala. Normally States renew ration cards once in five or six years. In case the States have issued ration cards recently and do not

want to issue fresh cards, a suitable endorsement can be made by an appropriate stamp in respect of the cards of population Below Poverty Line.

[Translation]

Export of Seeds

5962. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the achievements in agricultural production in India have been made due to the production of indigenous seeds;

(b) whether after attaining self sufficiency in production of seeds, there is no need to import the foreign seeds;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to export the indigenous seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indigenous production of seeds has made a substantial contribution to achievements in agricultural production.

(b) Import of seeds may be necessary in the context of introduction of new, improved varieties in the country for the benefit of farmers. However, the seed Policy is designed to ensure that commercial multiplication of seeds of imported varieties of oilseeds, cereals and pulses is undertaken within the country.

(c) and (d) India has considerable potential for export of seeds owing to the availability of diverse agroclimatic conditions. Subject to domestic requirements of seeds being met, Government of India encourages the export of seeds.

[English]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

5963. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has recommended the restoration of the earlier practice of distributing fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND