

(b) the names of eminent personalities whose statues have been installed in both of these countries;

(c) whether the Government have not been able to install the statues of all four personalities as per the above agreement;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for promptly installing these statues?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As part of celebrations of the Festival of India in USSR and the Festival of USSR in India, it was decided to install the statues of eminent Indians and Russians in each other's country. However, no formal Agreement was signed between the two countries.

(b) The statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore were installed in Moscow and the statues of Leo Tolstoy, Lenin and Pushkin were installed in Delhi.

(c) to (e) The installation of the statues of Pt. Nehru in Moscow and M. Gorky in Delhi is yet to be done. Consultations through our Embassy in Moscow are on for installation of Pt. Nehru's statue which is pending for completion of some preparatory work on the site of installation, and the installation of M. Gorky's statue in Delhi is linked to it.

[English]

Consumer Cooperative Institutes

1165. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Consumer Cooperative Institutes set up in the urban areas during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether any external financial assistance is being given to these Cooperative Institutes; and

(c) if so, the details of the amount provided, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Cooperation is a State subject, Registration, opening of any institutes and branches of Consumer Cooperative Societies and all other activities relating to consumer cooperatives are governed under the concerned State Cooperative Societies Acts and Rules and are supervised by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the respective States.

(b) Government of India has no proposal for obtaining external assistance for running these consumer cooperative societies/institutions.

(c) Does not arise.

Farm Subsidy

1166. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with regard to the input subsidies;

(b) if so, whether there are wide disparities in the amount of subsidy provided to the farmers in certain regions in the country and it is much less while comparing to other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for such wide disparities in the amount of subsidy in farm outputs alongwith the norms laid down to determine the subsidies; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to remove the disparities in the farm subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The regions which are technologically advanced and having better infrastructure derived greater benefits of agricultural input subsidies resulting into higher production of crops.

(e) The Government proposes to remove the disparities in the farm input subsidies by strict targeting.

[Translation]

Facilities for Retired Employees

1167. DR. GUNVANT RAM BHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided to the retired railway employees according to their class, at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Travel and medical facilities are provided to retired Railway employees.

Travel facilities are in the nature of grant of post-retirement Complimentary Passes for self, wife/husband