

(b) Details of persons who have been awarded Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships during the last three years are as follows:

S.No.	Year	Name of the Awardee	Subject
I.	1995-96	Three foreign fellowship were awarded in these two years, two out of which were for Ph. D in Sociology	
II.	1996-97	and one in International Relations.	
III.	1997-98	Nil	Relations

(c) The Governing Body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has discontinued the Scheme for Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship w.e.f. 14.9.1997 and decided to introduce revised Schemes of Dr. Ambedkar National Fellowship and Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship which are being finalised for introduction.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Retirement Age

1600. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Government has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for raising the retirement age of its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. The retirement age of employees working under the Govt. of NCT of Delhi has already been increased from 58 years to 60 years at par with the Central Government employees.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Exotic Weed Seeds

1601. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imported wheat from Australia in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and foreign exchange incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Australian Wheat imported by BTC contain exotic weeds and major problem for Karnataka as appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 13, 1998;

(d) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether the matter has been taken up with the Australian Wheat Board;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of the Australian Wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. During 1998-99 the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) had imported 14.15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia on behalf of Food Corporation of India (FCI) @ US\$ 142.50 PMT (FOB) involving a total expenditure of US\$ 205.32 million (including FOB cost & freight).

(c) to (e) Presence of some weed seeds was detected in the Australian wheat. Such weed seeds are an integral part of any foodgrains harvest and it is not unusual to detect weed seeds in any bulk import of foodgrains. The Australian wheat conforms to the provisions of the contract and the specifications laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and is fit for human consumption.

A complaint received from Karnataka about cross infestation of cashewnut stored in the Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation Godowns at Mangalore was investigated by FCI and found that there was no threat of insect infestation. As a measure of precaution the authorities of FCI and State Warehousing Corporation have been advised to keep the imported wheat stock free from infestation by regular prophylactic and curative treatment and to issue the stock on priority.

(f) and (g) STC has taken up the matter with Australian Wheat Board (AWB) to keep the wheat consignment free from exotic weeds to the extent possible.

(h) Government has advised the FCI to issue the imported wheat stocks to the State Government against their monthly allocation for distribution through PDS exclusively in non-wheat growing areas. It has been decided to release additional quantities of wheat to the State Government/UT administrations for open sale and to ensure that in case of open market sales, imported wheat goes only to the Roller Flour Mills.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Arms Act, 1959 and Border Security Force Act, 1968

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Arms (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 99 in Gazette of India dated the 14th

May, 1998 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Arms Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1702/98]

- (2) A copy of the Border Security Force (Seniority, Promotion and Superannuation of Officers) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 98 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1998 under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1703/98]

Annual Report and Review on the working of National Cooperative Consumer's Federation of India Ltd., New Delhi for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1704/98]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Population Research Centre, Bangalore, Population Research Centre, Vadodara for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT ESHILMALAI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working