

[English]

Demand and Availability of Essential Items

2529. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) the annual average domestic availability and demand for potato, pulses, onion, oilseeds, fruits, vegetable during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government have been meeting the gap between demand and supply;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap; and

(d) whether the Government propose to ban the export of these commodities to ensure the availability of these items in the market at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Year-wise precise estimates of demand in respect of potatoes, onion, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables and pulses are not available. However, as per the tentative estimates, the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils is around 13 lakh tonnes and those of pulses is over 20 lakh tonnes per annum.

(b) to (d) Government has banned the export of onion and put the import of edible oils and pulses under Open General Licence (OGL). The import duty on pulses and onion has been abolished and in respect of edible oils the duty has been reduced from 25% to 15%. Import of selected edible oilseeds has been allowed. Besides, the production of edible oilseeds has increased in the country, during the last few years and efforts are being made to step up the production of pulses and potatoes.

Bomb Blast by People's War Group

2530. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons including policemen were killed in a major time bomb blast triggered by the outlawed People's War Group in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons including policemen killed;

(c) whether the ISI activities in Andhra Pradesh have been increasing for the last one month; and

(d) if so, the details of help and assistance provided to the Andhra Pradesh to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 13 persons, including 10 policemen lost their lives.

(c) No reports suggestive of increase in ISI activities in Andhra Pradesh during the last one month have come to notice.

(d) Ministry of Home Affairs have released the following funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount released
1996-97	709.560
1997-98	1209.560
1998-99	104.780

Apart from above, adequate number of companies of Central Para Military Forces and modern weapons have been provided to the State for deployment in Nazalite affected areas.

[Translation]

LPG Coupons to MPs

2531. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN :

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time upto which the ban has been imposed on releasing LPG gas coupons being given to MPs, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the new suggestions worked out by the Government to stop bungling in issuing coupons to MPs; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to vacate the stay and restore their privilege?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The stay made by the Honourable High Court of Kerala in W.P. No. 11507 of 1998 on issue of LPG connections by the Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) has been vacated by the Court by its order dated 10.12.98. Accordingly instructions have been issued by the Govt. for starting the distribution of LPG Coupon Books to Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from 14.12.1998.