

- (i) The representatives of the State Governments are allowed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting the stocks from the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) for distribution under PDS through FPS.
- (ii) Type sealed samples of foodgrains from the issuing lots are displayed at FPS for benefit of consumers.
- (iii) Surprise checks by the Government agencies are carried out at FPS to check the quality of foodgrains.

Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that the quality of foodgrains supplied to FPS in Delhi is ensured by requiring FCI and the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation to draw samples jointly from each consignment and to supply one part of the joint sample to the FPS for enabling cardholders to compare supplies being made to them by visual comparison with the sealed sample.

#### Pilferage of Oil

2545. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of pilferage of oil and diesel detected during the last two years, year-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to stop such pilferage in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As reported, the cases of crude oil pilferage during the last two years are as under :-

1996-97	—	17
1997-98	—	33

Keeping in view the volume of sales of Diesel, in the country, the number of Diesel thefts is very negligible.

(b) In addition to joint inspections by security and production personnel, fencing of oil wells with barbed wires, laying of flow lines underground instead of exposed ones and deploying of armed guards in theft prone areas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)/Oil India Limited (OIL) have inducted CISF personnel for the purpose and also introduced air surveillance of oil fields/pipelines by helicopters.

#### Reorganisation of States

2546. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the reorganisation of States;

(b) whether any new State is proposed to be created under the above proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The Government is not contemplating any general reorganisation of States. However, the Bills providing for reorganisation of the existing States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to create the new States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand/Uttaranchal were referred to the respective State Legislatures in August'98 for expressing their views thereon as required under article 3 of the Constitution of India. The views of the State Legislatures have since been received and the matter is under further examination.

#### Production of Sugarcane

2547. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane production in Maharashtra has surpassed the target and creating problem of the farmers;

(b) if so, the directions issued by the Union Government for proper utilisation of cane crushing capacity in the State; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to compensate the farmers endeavour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) According to the Government of Maharashtra during the current season 1998-99 (October-September) 53 million tonnes of sugarcane is expected to be produced, out of which about 48 million tonnes is expected to be available for crushing by the sugar mills in the State, producing about 52 lakh tonnes of sugar. Against this, during the season 1995-96, 46.68 million tonnes of sugarcane were produced and the cane crushed by the sugar mills was of the order of 51.46 million tonnes producing 53.76 lakh tonnes of sugar. Thus the sugar mills of the State had crushed more sugarcane than the production of their State. In other words, some quantity of cane brought from the neighbouring States was also crushed. As such, there is enough capacity available in the State for crushing sugarcane likely to be produced during the current crushing season. In addition, 11 new sugar mills have gone into production and 11 existing sugar factories have completed their expansion of capacity since 1995-96.

#### Transportation of Oil to Coastal States

2548. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has been aware of the delay in transporting oil to coastal States;