

the purchase operations of Oilseeds including Sunflower on Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government of India from time to time. Since the prices have not fallen below MSP in Bihar, procurement through NAFED could not take place in the last three years.

#### Christian Population

2574. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Christian population in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the number of Christian nuns and ladies physically assaulted and raped; and
- (c) the steps taken to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) As per the 1991 Census of Christian population in Madhya Pradesh is 0.65%.

(b) As per information available Four (4) nuns were allegedly gangraped in Madhya Pradesh (Jhabua Distt.).

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crimes as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Even as it is essential for the State Governments to deal with crime prevention and detection, the Central Government have been providing assistance to the State Government for improving their policing infrastructure, besides sharing intelligence with them.

After the recent incidents involving minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order enforcing authorities to respond immediately to the complaints of atrocities/harassment of the minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish the guilty persons. The Government is clear that acts of violence against the minority communities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

#### Unemployment Problem

2575. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken note of the observations made in the 'World Employment Report 1998-99' published by International Labour Organisation recently emphasising education and training as the tools for combatting unemployment;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken to solve the problem of unemployment in the country during the current year and for the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware that upgradation of knowledge and skills through education and training has a positive impact on productivity and employment. In order enhance productivity and employability of the workers, education and training is being imparted through various educational/vocational training institutions.

(c) The strategy of the Ninth Plan envisages adoption to technologies which are labour intensive, simple, cost effective and easily adaptable in regions characterised by high rate of unemployment and underemployment, improvement in the quality of employment with Special thrust on productivity.

[Translation]

#### Policy for Production of Fertilizers

2576. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any latest policy for the production of fertilizers during the Ninth Plan;
- (b) if so, the target for production of fertilizers is likely to be achieved through the implementation of the said policy; and
- (c) the progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL) : (a) to (c) No new policy has been formulated by Government of India for the production of fertilizers during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The achievement vis a vis the target of production of these nutrients during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as follows: