

Nutrient	Year 1997-98		Year 1998-99	
	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production (estimated)
Nitrogen	96.11	100.85	106.82	104.26
Phosphate	28.60	29.76	30.26	29.97

[English]

Implementation of New Central Guidelines

2577. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vidarbha LPG Distributors Association has submitted a memorandum on implementation of New Central Guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken for redressal of genuine grievances of gas distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Vidarbha LPG Distributors Association filed a writ petition before the High Court Judicature at Mumbai (Nagpur Branch) seeking the quashing and setting aside of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines being implemented by public sector oil companies with effect from 12th May, 1998. An ex-parte order dated 15.10.1998 was passed by the Court granting interim stay. The matter is presently sub-judice. However, the public sector oil companies have put on hold the implementation of the revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 1998 and are also reviewing the said guidelines for redressal of genuine grievances of LPG distributors.

Welfare of the Mentally Retarded Persons

2578. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

SHRI VAIKO :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mentally retarded persons in the country; States/UT wise;

(b) the number of mentally retarded persons rehabilitated during the last three years;

(c) the details of welfare schemes implemented and the funds allocated for the upliftment of mentally retarded persons; and

(d) the number of welfare centres being run by the Government in the country, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The required information is being collected.

Capitation Fees Charged From Medical Students

2579. SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the medical education in the country have become commercialised and the medical colleges throughout the country are charging exorbitant capitation fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the genuine and hardworking students are denied admissions in medical colleges due to lack of funds with them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring transparency in the functioning of various medical colleges throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) With a view to prevent the commercialisation of medical colleges and also to prevent Private medical colleges from charging capitation fee, the Supreme Court of India in the case of Unnikrishnan J.P. versus State, evolved a scheme for regulating admission in private medical colleges and also fixed a specific fee structure to be charged by these medical colleges. As per the scheme, in all private medical colleges 50% of the total seats will be merit seats, 35% are payment seats and the remaining 15% are seats earmarked for NRI. The admissions to the first two categories i.e. merit and payment seats is to be done by a competent authority in the respective States, on the basis of merit to be determined either on the basis of a competitive entrance test or on the basis of the merit determined in the qualifying examination. Since merit is the sole criteria for obtaining admissions, hard-working students have been benefited by this scheme evolved by the Supreme Court. As regards the fee structure, this has been fixed by the Supreme Court from 1993-94 to 1996-97. Subsequently, the Central Government has fixed the upper ceiling of fee for merit and payment seats in private medical colleges from 1997-98.

Hydro Carbon Deposits

2580. SHRI T. R. BAALU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any seismic survey was conducted during 1996-97 in Bay of Bengal to identify the Hydro Carbon deposits along the East Coast and around Andaman Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the data collected pertaining to Hydro Carbon deposits;

(c) the progress made so far in extraction in these areas;

(d) whether any multinational company has come forward to invest under New Exploration Licensing Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1996-97, ONGC conducted seismic survey and acquired 3383 line kms. of 2D seismic data in the area of Vizag, Yanam and mouth of river Krishna in KG Offshore along the East Coast. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) also acquired a total of 11035 line kms. of 2D seismic and gravity-magnetic data in the Eastern Offshore and Andaman Nicobar deep water areas of Bay of Bengal.

(c) The seismic data acquired by ONGC is under interpretation. One location has been identified for drilling based on earlier acquired data. The data acquired by DGH has been processed, interpreted and integrated with some of the earlier data acquired by National Oil Companies in the adjoining shallow water areas. Several large structures and, new geological plays have been mapped. As a result, twelve deep water blocks have been carved out for offer under first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(d) and (e) NELP is yet to be operationalised. However, deep water data has been seen by 23 foreign and domestic oil companies. Seven companies have purchased the data.

LPG Supply

2581. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide any LPG dealership in Assam particularly in Jalpaiguri District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 38 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan

1996-98 for Assam. 4 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for district Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Base Depot of FCI

2582. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depots of Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh for supplying foodgrains under targetted Public Distribution system/general public distribution;

(b) whether these depots are sufficient to meet the requirement of the State;

(c) the names of the districts of the State where base depots have not been setup so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open more base depots in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; location-wise;

(f) the details of the base depots where the foodgrains are not being supplied simultaneously; and

(g) the time by which the supply of these foodgrains is likely to commence therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) There are 61 nominated issue points in Madhya Pradesh for storage and supply of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Out of these 61 storage issue points, 39 Centres are used for issuing foodgrains under both APL and BPL while 22 Centres are used for issuing foodgrains under BPL, only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are no FCI Depots in Districts of Bhind, Shivpuri, Rajgarh, Raisen, Panna, Mandsaur, Shajapur, Sehore, Korla, Umaria, Neemuch, Kawardha, Janjgir, Korba, Dantewada, Badwani and Harda.

(d) and (e) In Dhamatari of Arjuni, FCI has already constructed a 10,000 MT godown and the operations will commence shortly. A proposal to construct godowns at Katni and Kapa of 20,000 and 25,000 tonnes capacity, respectively, is under consideration.

(f) and (g) There are at present 22 issue points from where foodgrains under only BPL are being issued (statement enclosed).