

The conversion is subject to overcoming the constraints of lack of railheads and the cost of road transportation of foodgrains which is about Rs. 60 lakhs per month.

Statement

List of Issue Centres For Issue of Foodgrains Under BPL only.	Extra Expenditure to be incurred in APL Scheme if Stock Issue from BPL Centre (per month) in Rs.
1. Sheopurkalan	4523
2. Dhamnod	172179
3. Khargone	217951
4. Alirajpur	240321
5. Dhamtari	14972
6. Sidhi	160804
7. Balaghat	653328
8. Mandla	2207409
9. Dindorj	
10. Sahapura	
11. Seoni	669934
12. Lakhnadone	513520
13. Chhindwara	137208
14. Kanker	178949
15. Narayanpur	11273
16. Bijapur	24696
17. Sukma	16662
18. Katghora	14778
19. Kargiroad	11734
20. Jashpumagar	20559
21. Ramanujganj	19300
22. Najakpur	3373

[English]

Missionaries Operating in North-Eastern States

2583. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of missionaries operating in the North-Eastern States and the number out of them foreign missionaries;

(b) whether these missionaries are involved in creating insurgency in North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against these missionaries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Property of WAKF

2584. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of leasing Wakf properties to private individuals at below market rate brought to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) It has been brought to the notice of the Government that in Punjab Wakf Board certain Wakf properties have been leased out to private individuals at below market rate. Similar cases in respect of other Boards and/or State Governments have not so far come to the notice of the Government.

(b) The details are not available with the Government and have been called for from the respective State Governments/State Wakf Boards and will be laid on the Table of Parliament as soon as it is received.

(c) On the advise of the Government, the leasing system in Punjab Wakf Board is being reviewed with a view to increasing the lease amount at par with the prevalent rates.

Freedom Fighters Pension

2585. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

KUMARI KIM GANGTE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute any Advisory Committee to finalise the pending cases of Freedom Fighters for Pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications for the Freedom Fighters Pension rejected during 1996-97, and 1997-98 and the number of cases out of them recommended by the State Government;

(d) the number of cases of them pertaining to more than 75 years old are pending; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to dispose of all these applications?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The number of applications received during 1996-97 and 1997-98 were 34,048 and 29,669 respectively. Most of these were review cases which had been rejected once or more earlier.

Reports from the State Governments were received in 2713 cases in 1996-97 and in 2810 cases in 1997-98. However, information in regard to cases recommended by the State Governments is not maintained separately. Similarly, information about the age of applicants is not maintained.

(e) Efforts are made to dispose of all applications expeditiously. No fresh applications, duly verified and recommended by any State Government, is pending.

PF Pension Scheme

2586. SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue 1.16% Government contribution towards the PF pension scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to restore the contribution;

(d) whether the Government have decided to pay 4% interim relief to PF pensioners;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have any proposal to revise the provident fund pensionary benefits as per the relevant provisions of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) An increase of 4% on pension in payment has since been sanctioned to the beneficiaries w.e.f. 16.11.1996.

(g) to (i) Revision of pensionary benefits under the Employees' Pension Scheme is an ongoing process. Therefore, the benefits under the scheme are revised as and when considered actuarially feasible.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Policy

2587. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no fresh investment in the fertilizer sector due to frequent changes in the Fertilizer Policy by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme encouraging the investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL) : (a) to (c) As per the Industrial Policy Statement issued by the Government on 24.7.91, no industrial licence is normally required for setting up a fertilizer plant.

During the period from 1991-92 to 1997-98, projects involving additional production capacity of 22.48 lakh MT of Nitrogen (N) and 2 lakh MT of Phosphate (P) were commissioned. Besides, six major fertilizer projects involving an investment of approx. Rs. 4120 crore are under implementation in the country. These projects when commissioned, will provide an additional annual capacity of 9.75 lakh MT of urea, 23.07 lakh MT of DAP and 8.90 lakh MT of complex fertilizers.

The following incentives are available for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector:-

(i) Duty free import of capital goods for setting up of new plants/modernisation of existing units.