

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

(a) whether a major fire broke out in an Indian Oil Corporation depot at Thekeriguri in Nagaon district (Assam) on August, 11 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and loss suffered in this regard;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the cause of the fire;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) There was a massive explosion on 11/8/98 at Indian Oil Corporation depot at Thekeriguri in Nagaon district (Assam) leading to a fire which spread and engulfed all the seven storage tanks. About 11.941 KL of Petroleum Product were lost in the fire besides damage to the seven tanks and 4 tanks under fabrication. The total loss is estimated at around Rs. 13 crores.

(c) to (e) A Departmental investigation was carried out by IOC. The State Govt./Police have also taken up investigation. The preliminary indication from internal investigation, etc. is that the most probable cause of the fire appeared to be an explosive device, planted by miscreants. Security measures have been beefed up in the North-Eastern Sector and round-the-clock strict vigil is maintained.

Child Mortality

2665. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the States where child mortality rate is on the increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the position in this regard state-wise; and

(d) the strategy adopted by the Government to check the rise in the death rate of children during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) (a) to (c) A statement showing the Child Mortality Rate for India and the Major States in the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 as estimated by the Sample Regis-

tration System is annexed. A marginal increase in the Child Mortality Rate has been reported in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in 1995 as concerned to 1993.

(d) Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of mortality due to diarrhoeal disease and acute respiratory infection, essential care of the newborn and prophylaxis and treatment of Vitamin A deficiency and Iron deficiency anaemia are being implemented to reduce child mortality.

Statement

Estimated Child Mortality (0-4 Years) Rate India and Major States, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Sl. No.	States	1993	1994	1995
	India *	23.7	23.9	24.2
1	Andhra Pradesh	17.1	17.0	19.1
2	Assam	29.7	24.7	24.7
3	Bihar	25.3	24.9	28.3
4	Gujarat	20.7	22.2	19.9
5	Haryana	20.3	22.3	22.7
6	Himachal Pradesh	16.1	16.0	17.2
7	Karnataka	20.0	18.6	18.2
8	Kerala	3.4	3.4	4.3
9	Madhya Pradesh	36.9	34.8	33.0
10	Maharashtra	14.1	14.4	14.9
11	Orissa	33.7	31.6	32.2
12	Punjab	16.1	15.7	14.9
13	Rajasthan	26.2	27.4	29.3
14	Tamil Nadu	13.6	13.4	14.5
15	Uttar Pradesh	32.9	33.0	30.8
16	West Bengal	17.0	19.8	18.6

* Excludes J & K and Mizoram

Source : Sample Registration System

Creation of India Reserve Battalions

2666. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for creation of India Reserve Battalions;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(c) the number of Indian Reserve Battalions raised and proposals pending with the Union Government, State-wise?

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

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

List of Details of India Reserve Battalions raised/sanctioned and requests pending for raising

Sl.No	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Bns. sanctioned so far	Request pending (No. of Bns.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	-
2.	Assam	4	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
5.	Haryana	-	2
6.	J & K	4	3
7.	Mizoram	1	1
8.	Manipur	2	1
9.	Meghalaya	1	1
10.	Orissa	-	2
11.	Punjab	5	5
12.	Rajasthan	2	-
13.	Sikkim	1	-
14.	Tripura	2	-
15.	Tamil Nadu	2	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	-	3
17.	Bihar	2	-
18.	Nagaland	1	1
19.	Lakshadweep	1	-
		35	20

Quota of Wheat/Rice in Delhi

2667. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have raised the quota of rice and wheat under PDS in Delhi from November 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise the similar allocation for other States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) Under targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) implemented from 1st June, 1997, monthly foodgrains (Wheat/Rice) quotas of States/UTs are based on the average annual lifting for the past 10 years taking into account the requirement of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at the rate of 10 kg. per month per family. Over and above the TPDS monthly allocations, additional allocations of rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices applicable for APL families are also made to States/UTs including Delhi keeping in view their requests/needs and the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

An additional allocations of 30,000 MT wheat and 10,000 MT rice has been given Delhi at APL rates for November, 98. Statewise details of the additional allotments made over and above the monthly TPDS allocations in November, 98 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Additional Allotment of Rice and Wheat to States and UTs Under Targeted P.D.S. for November, 1998

(In 000 Tonnes)			
Sl.No	States/UTs	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	10.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.540	-
3.	Assam	15.000	10.000
4.	Bihar	-	20.000
5.	Delhi	10.000	30.000
6.	Goa	2.500	1.000
7.	Gujarat	0.000	-
8.	Haryana	-	5.000