

(b) The losses of foodgrains at these storage centres in the State of Kerala as reported by FCI during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Rice (in MTs)	Storage Losses (Percentage)
1994-95	1633	0.14%
1995-96	2576	0.21%
1996-97	986	0.06%

However, no loss in foodgrains stock has been reported by KSWC.

(c) To minimise storage losses the FCI has adopted various measures such as enforcement of strict quality specifications at the time of procurement, adoption of 50 kg. packing in a phased manner, installation of weighbridges, encouraging machine stitching of bags, tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, induction of CISF at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage ensuring strict preservation measures etc.

(d) The locations identified and funds allotted for construction of additional storage centres capacity-wise, by FCI/KSWC during the year 1998-99 are as under:—

Agency	Centre identified	Capacity Funds	
		(in MTs)	Allotted (in lakhs)
FCI	Meenangudi	5,000	40.00
	Arakulam	5,000	90.00
KSWC	Attingal	2,400	68.50
	Karunagapally	2,700	46.00

#### Prostitution

3043. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tendency of prostitution and sale/purchase of women has been increasing in the country particularly in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases reported in various States about the prostitution and sale/purchase of women during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this regard, State/Union Territory-wise;

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to check the same;

(f) whether the Government are contemplating to bring a stringent law to check such social evils; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### Maharashtra Organised Crime Control Act

3044. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:  
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:  
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra regarding Maharashtra Organised Crime Control Act for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra referred the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Ordinance, 1999 in January, 1999 for instructions of the President under article 213(1) of the Constitution. The Ordinance seeks to curb organised crimes like contract killings, extortion, smuggling in contrabands including narcotics, kidnapping for ransom, collection of protection money etc. It empowers a competent authority to authorise or approve interception of wire, electronic or oral communication to a police officer not below a rank of

Superintendent of Police, supervising the investigation of an organised crime.

The Ordinance provides: (a) for punishment for organised crime, (b) possession of unaccountable wealth on behalf of member of organised crimes syndicate and (c) forfeiture and attachment of property. However, to prevent its misuse, sufficient safeguard has been provided in the Ordinance, including constitution of Review Committee for review of authorisation orders as also making rules under the Ordinance.

The instructions of the President have already been conveyed on February 12, 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Manufacturing of Illegal Weapons**

3045. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:  
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business of manufacturing illegal weapons is flourishing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether some persons in this regard have been identified;

(c) if so, the number of such cases came to light during the last six months, State-wise;

(d) the places alongwith the details of weapons recovered therefrom; and

(e) the action taken against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Governments/UT Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Monitoring Cell on Essential Commodities**

3046. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI T.R. BAALU:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a monitoring cell to check the price, availability and equitable distribution of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the State Governments shall have their representative in the cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) A Special Price Monitoring Cell has been set up recently in the Department of Consumer Affairs to monitor prices and availability of essential commodities. The Cell submits Notes to the High Powered Price Monitoring Board on the trends in prices and availability of essential commodities.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

#### **Kutch District**

3047. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:  
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Government of Gujarat for taking necessary measures to protect the life and property of peoples living in Kutch district of Gujarat being on the Pak borders;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hand over the patrolling responsibility of this area to the Coast Guard; and