

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India have accorded priority to the security of the border areas of Gujarat sector. Appropriate action has been taken on the various points raised in the Memorandum, in consultation with other departments/agencies of the Government and strengthening of border/coastal security is a continuing process.

(c) and (d) The patrolling of the Gujarat Coast including the shallow waters is the responsibility of the Coast Guard under Section 14 of the Coast Guard Act, 1978. At present, deeper waters are patrolled by the Coast Guard and Navy whereas the near shore areas are patrolled by the Navy with Customs and Police personnels in hired fishing boats. This is because presently Coast Guard does not have requisite water crafts/hovercrafts for shallow water patrolling. There is a proposal in the Ministry of Defence to establish a Coast Guard Station at Jakhau and acquisition of hovercrafts and advanced light helicopters for the Coast Guard for further augmenting surveillance in this area.

[*Translation*]

Misuse of Foodgrains

3048. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses incurred by each State for supply of foodgrains under the various schemes during each of the last two years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding misuse of foodgrains supplied under Below Poverty Line Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantum and cost of the foodgrains damaged during transportation and storage in each State; and

(e) the States in which the demand for supply of foodgrains has been increasing every year and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of losses incurred by each State for supply of foodgrains under various schemes are not maintained by Government of India.

(b) and (c) PDS is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government procures and make available foodgrains, i.e., rice and wheat to the States at subsidised prices under PDS, the distribution to the consumers through the network of fair price shops is carried out by the State Government.

The Government of India receive from time to time, reports and complaints about the non-availability or diversion of PDS commodities including foodgrains at various locations in the country. Such reports, complaints are brought to the notice of State Government concerned for taking necessary corrective action.

(d) Details of the quantity and cost of damaged foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India as on 31.12.1998 are given in the Statement.

(e) Demand for foodgrains under PDS, which are subsidised, is generally higher and requests are received from the States/Union Territories for enhancing their quota. It is not always possible to meet fully such demands on account of constraints of availability in Central Pool and heavy subsidy involved.

Statement

Region-wise Consolidated Position of Damaged Foodgrains with Food Corporation of India as on 31.12.1998

Name of Region	Quantity (in Metric Tonnes)	Value (In Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3
EAST ZONE		
Bihar	16809	1315
Orissa	90	6
West Bengal	19579	1517
JM(PO), Calcutta	23208	1858
NEF ZONE		
Assam	2596	206
NEF States	337	27