

reduced by Rs. 300 crores as a result of upward revision in the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains with effect from 29.1.99.

(b) The quantum of food subsidy in a year depends on the level of procurement, issue prices, quantum of supplies under various schemes and the level of buffer stocks etc. This therefore varies from year to year.

(d) While it is not possible to eliminate food subsidy without raising the issue prices suitably, following important steps have been taken, are being taken by the FCI to reduce contain the economic cost and carrying cost and other expenditure:—

- (i) FCI is trying to achieve average capacity utilisation of 75% to reduce storage cost even though the procurement of grain is seasonal.
- (ii) The procurement and movement ratio is being adhered to the norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Government of India to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iii) Continuous efforts are being made to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains.
- (iv) Efforts are also being made to reduce the incurrence of Railway demurrage charges.
- (v) Excess stocks are being released in the open market at prices above the Central Issue Price (CIP).
- (vi) Issue of old stocks, disposing of C&D category of stocks and introducing direct supervision on movement of foodgrains to control the incidence of transit and storage shortages.
- (vii) Machine stitching of gunnies and handling of foodgrains in 50 kg bags to reduce the storage and transit loss.
- (viii) Ensuring strict quality control measures during procurement storage.
- (ix) The Corporation is controlling the administrative cost by following minimum recruitment of resultant entry level post irrespective of the increased volume of operations.

[Translation]

Farm Houses in Delhi

3064. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farm houses located at Andheria Mor in Mahrauli village of Delhi were allotted land at cheaper rates by the administration for poultry farm;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Farm Houses are used for other purpose; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Anti-National Elements

3065. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-national elements are raising their heads to create law and order problems in the country; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. Law & order problems prevail in some parts of the country due to activities of anti-national elements.

(b) Government is keeping a close and careful watch on all such developments though 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to improve the law and order situation in the States. At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-terrorist operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of their activities among States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in term of financial assistance, weapons, deployment of para-military forces

etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons.

[Translation]

Navodaya Vidyalaya

*3066. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Navodaya Vidyalaya for children of Tharu Tribals in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for construction work of these vidyalayas in the above states; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The scheme envisages opening one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya per District and no separate JNVs for any tribe or community is set up. Seats are however reserved for SC/ST community students.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Open Market Scheme

3067. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discretionary powers of the officers of Food Corporation of India regarding sale of wheat and rice in the open market;

(b) whether open auctions are not being conducted in various foodgrains depots;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to start any sale related scheme in the open market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) There are no discretionary powers to the officers of Food Corporation of India regarding sale of wheat and rice. Food Corporation of India is required to release the stocks of Foodgrains under the Open Market Sale Scheme (domestic) as per the instructions/guide-lines issued by this Ministry from time to time. However, FCI has been authorised to dispose of more than two years old stock of rice which is upgradable but within PFA standard at the prices and on the terms and conditions decided by High Level Committee of FCI provided the prices are not below the APL prices. FCI is also empowered to dispose of sub-standard damaged stocks of Foodgrains.

(b) and (c) Food Corporation of India does not conduct open auction for its stocks at various depots under the Open Market Sale Scheme (domestic), as open auctions result in monopoly of a few buyers who have more money to bid and re-sell it later on. Therefore, on practical considerations. Government has decided to undertake open sale at fixed rates and FCI dispose of the upgradable/substandard/damaged stock of foodgrains at fixed price tender etc.

(d) to (f) The Central Government decided in Nov-1998 to release upto 40 lakh M.T. of wheat to State Governments for open sale under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic). The State Governments have been given the options to release this wheat through the PDS outlets or through Roller Flour Mills. Co-operative Societies and State Government agencies to encourage the lifting of wheat under the scheme. The Government has removed the restrictions imposed on State Governments regarding movement of wheat/Wheat products outside their State. The State Government availing the benefit of the scheme is required to keep a watch on the prices within the State. Rice is not being sold under this scheme. However FCI dispose of sub-standard damaged stock of foodgrains from time to time by inviting tenders fixed price etc. under the powers delegated to them.

[English]

Urban Population

3068. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: