

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has received no information from any of the State Governments regarding damage to sugarcane crop due to heavy rains and floods. The production of sugar is, however, being monitored on weekly basis and the sugar production during the current sugar season (Oct. - Sept.) 1998-99 (as on 15th January) was 51.72 lakh tonnes (provisional) as against the sugar production of 46.62 lakh tonnes (provisional) during the corresponding period of the last sugar season.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Subsidy

175. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to curtail the fertilizer subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government allow the manufacturers to fix product prices depending on the production of cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to provide fertilizers to farmers at an affordable price while keeping subsidy within reasonable limits.

(c) and (d) Price of urea is statutorily fixed by the Government. Decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are required to be sold as per the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by the Government.

[English]

Indira Awas Yojana

176. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any schemes, other than Indira Awas Yojana, to solve the housing problem in rural India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

Import of Potash

177. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of Potash this year created artificial scarcity, and the cultivators are forced to procure potash at high price;

(b) if so, whether full quantity of potash imported by the Government is handed over to businessmen;

(c) if so, whether the Central Organisations like IPL or Cooperatives Organisation BENFED received any quantity of potash for procurement by the cultivators at the reasonable price; and

(d) if so, the quantity of potash allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) to (d) Muriate of Potash (MOP) has been decontrolled since August, 1992 and its imports decanalised since June, 1993. There have been no imports of MOP on Government account nor any allocation made of MOP since then. The imports are made freely on private trade account within the framework of the Concession Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

During the current Rabi season, nearly 14.93 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) of MOP has been imported. Of this, 6.40 LMTs has been brought by Indian Potash Limited (IPL) and remaining by others. There have been no shortages reported of MOP by any of the States except West Bengal where shortages for a brief spell were experienced in November '98 on account of cyclonic storm on Eastern Coast which affected the discharge and despatches of MOP from Vizag port.

Rehabilitation of Expired Security Personnel's Families

178. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of security personnel expired during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of dependants of these personnel provided job and rehabilitation facilities;

(c) the number of applications pending for providing job to the dependants for more than a year; and

(d) the steps taken to provide jobs within the stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The number of security personnel who have expired during the last three years is as follows:

1996	-	1069
1997	-	1195
1998	-	1315

(b) 781 dependants have been provided employment.

(c) The number of applications pending for more than one year for providing jobs is 897.

(d) Employment is offered to the dependants as per the availability of vacancies.

Towns Developed under IDSMT Scheme in Orissa

179. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of work undertaken during Eighth Plan under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns in Orissa;

(b) the small and medium towns brought under the programme so far;

(c) whether any small or medium towns have been selected for the improvement of infrastructure in the State during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the fund earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) During the Eighth Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), Central assistance amounting to Rs. 412.00 lakhs has been released to the State of Orissa for 22 towns.

(b) Since the inception of the IDSMT Scheme 41 small and medium towns have been brought under the programme in the State of Orissa as given in the statement attached.

(c) to (e) During 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto December, 1998) the first two years of Ninth Plan,

Central assistance amounting to Rs. 106.74 has been released to the State of Orissa already for the improvement of infrastructure in the following 6 towns which are ongoing schemes being implemented in Orissa.

	CA released (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	
1. Tarbha	12.00
2. Puri	29.00
3. Nilgiri	3.00
4. Athamallik	4.00
	<u>48.00</u>
1998-99	
	(upto December, 1998)
5. Jajapur	32.74
6. Athagarh	26.00
	<u>58.74</u>
Total	106.74

Statement

List of Small and Medium Towns covered under IDSMT in Orissa

1. Puri
2. Sambalpur
3. Baleshwar
4. Raurkela
5. Jaypur
6. Dhenkanal
7. Keonjhar
8. Baripada
9. Balangir
10. Paradip
11. Korapur
12. Phulabani
13. Bhawanipatna
14. Kendrapara
15. Anugul
16. Jajapur Road
17. Bargarh