

case of non-scheduled formulations, companies are free to fix their own prices.

(c) For medicines outside price control whichever abnormal price increase of commonly used drugs is noticed if such rise is unjustified then action under DPCO can be initiated.

Production/ Import of Life Saving Drugs

2161. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the number, names, domestic production, requirement, imports and retail prices respectively of life saving drugs during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revive the ailing Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) in view of the rise in prices of life-saving drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Details regarding production, imports exports of bulk drugs etc. are given in the Annual publication of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals titled 'Indian Drugs statistics', copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) The issue of future of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) is under consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken soon.

[Translation]

Self Employment Schemes

2162. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some blocks of Ludhiana district in Punjab have been selected for advancing loan to Scheduled Castes and Minorities for self employment ;

(b) if so, the names of the blocks ;

(c) whether the Government have selected blocks in other States of the country also under this scheme;

(d) if so, the names of the States and blocks selected till now ; and

(e) the criteria adopted for the selection of blocks ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In Ludhiana District loans are advanced to Scheduled Castes for self employment.

Further, no block in Ludhiana District has been selected for advancing loans to Minorities.

(b) The block-wise details are not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) The Central Government does not involve in selection of Blocks under this scheme. The scheme is implemented through the State-level Channelising Agencies for identifying the beneficiaries at the district/ block level keeping in mind the actual requirement, type of project, priority areas, etc.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) and (c) above.

(e) The Central Government does not release funds Block wise. As such the question of criteria for the same does not arise.

Increase in the Prices of Wheat and Rice

2163. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSIWAL :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

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

(a) whether the Government have hiked the prices of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution Scheme particularly in Delhi recently ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice have been revised w.e.f. 1.6.1997.

(b) The C.I.P. have been revised after the gap of 3 years. During the last 3 years the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procurement of foodgrains was increased thrice resulting in a steep hike in food subsidy in the Central budget and necessitating revision of the CIP. The CIP for families below poverty line (BPL) and families above poverty line (APL) have been fixed separately with the launching of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with effect from 1.6.1997. The CIP before and after the revision are shown below :

Central Issue Price

	(Rs. per Qtl.) Rice			
	Wheat	Common	Fine	Superfine
With effect from 1.2.94	402	537	617	648
With effect from 1.6.97				
For families below poverty line (BPL)	250	350	350	-
For families above poverty line (APL)	450	-	650	750

Based on the revision of CIP, the Government of NCT of Delhi also revised the issue prices at the Fair Price Shops (FPS) level. As TPDS is yet to be launched in Delhi foodgrains are issued to the State Government at CIP for APL families. The State Government has revised FPS level issue prices accordingly as under :

Prices fixed by Government of NCT of Delhi

	(Rs. Per Qtl.) Rice			
	Wheat	Common	Fine	Superfine
With effect from 1.2.94	427	-	-	690
With effect from 1.6.97	500	-	-	800

[English]

ULFA Activists and Bodo Insurgents

2164. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hardcore ULFA cadres and Bodo insurgents arrested during the last four months indicating the details of weapons seized from them in Assam ;

(b) the number of attacks made by militants and persons killed as a result thereof during the said period;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the militants have drawn out plans to levy taxes on the people much in the style of its counterparts in Nagaland despite army vigil in that region ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to reports received from Govt. of Assam, during the period April, 1997 to 18th July, 1997 the number of militants arrested is 359. A total of 40 weapons of different assortment have been recovered from them.

(b) According to reports received from the Govt. of Assam the number of attack by ULFA and Bodo militants on the Police/security forces/Army etc. during the above period are 40 which have caused death of 31 persons.

(c) and (d) To counter the extortion drive by militants, Government has further stepped up measures to nab militants. Steps taken in this regard include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-Military Forces and Army in the State. Coordinated action by Army, Para-Military & State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN(1) as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation, both, at State and Central Government level is being made.

Participation of India in UN Conference

2165. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has participated in the UN Conference held in New York as a follow up of Earth Summit held five years ago;

(b) if so, whether India has taken up the question of global warming and ozone depletion and their consequences with the developed countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof and resolutions made in this regards;

(d) the likely impact thereof on the pace of industrialisation and development in the country;

(e) whether developed countries have provided some assistance to developing countries;

(f) if so, the amount received by India ;

(g) whether the summit failed to achieve any agreement in the environment sector ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (h) The Indian delegation, alongwith those of several other developing countries, took up the question of global warming and ozone depletion and emphasised the need for the developed countries to maintain the obligations imposed on them by the relevant conventions and ensure an adequate transfer of technologies and financial resources to the developing countries. The final outcome on these issues recognised that, so far, insufficient progress had been made by many developed countries in meeting their aim to return to green house gas emission at 1990 levels by the end of 2000 and emphasised the need for such countries to strengthen their commitments. It further ensured that no obligations are presently imposed on developing countries in respect of green house gas emission. The position of many countries is, however, still evolving and a further review is scheduled to take place at the Third session of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Climate Change later this year. The issue of ozone depletion was also addressed and it was decided that the Montreal Protocol should be strengthened.

The need for adequate financial assistance through various multilateral fora such as the Global Environment Facility, the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund etc. was also