

(c) and (d) The quantity and value of coconut and groundnut oils exported for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	641.42	795.34
1995-96	609.96	424.94

The information for 1996-97 is not available.

[English]

Inferior Quality of Seeds

2553. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that inferior quality of seeds are being supplied to the farmers in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of cases noticed by the Government during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the failure of the Government in regard to take action against the suppliers of inferior quality of seeds;

(d) whether the Government propose to strengthen the present Seeds Act with a view to take action against the unscrupulous suppliers of seeds; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Certain instances regarding the supply of sub-standard seeds to farmers in the country, (including in the State of Karnataka) have come to the notice of Government of India.

(b) During 1995-96, 73788 samples were drawn under the provisions of the Seeds Act, of which 6185 were found to be sub-standard. Action was taken against concerned seed dealers which included issue of warnings, orders to stop sale and launching of prosecutions under the provisions of the Seeds Act. Similarly, action was taken against 1109 seeds dealers in 1995-96 under the Seeds (Control) Order 1983 for contravention of the provisions of the Order. The data for 1996-97 is not yet available as the year has not yet come to a close.

(c) to (e) The Seeds Act, 1966 has stringent provisions for quality control of seeds of notified kinds

or varieties. It provides for penalties for supply of sub-standard seeds of notified kinds of varieties seeds have been declared as an essential commodity under Essential Commodities Act and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 contains provisions for licensing of dealers and for regulating the marketing and distribution of all types of seeds. Contraventions of the Order are punishable under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. The Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order 1983 provide an adequate legal framework to regulate the quality of seeds distributed to farmers. However, the enforcement of the Seeds Act and Seeds (Control) Order is the responsibility of the State Governments.

[Translation]

Scheduled Caste Population in Bihar

2554. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes in Bihar;

(b) whether Pan, Swansi and Chanpar Castes are considered as Scheduled Caste and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the reasons for depriving these caste of the facilities available to other Scheduled Caste people;

(d) whether the Government are expecting any report from the Government of Bihar in this regard;

(e) if so, the time by which the Government of Bihar is likely to submit a report; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Scheduled Caste population of Bihar as per 1991 Census is 1,25,71,700.

(b) and (c). Pan, Swansi communities have been specified as Scheduled Castes in relation to the State of Bihar. Chanpar caste has not been specified as Scheduled Caste in Bihar and no request for its inclusion in the Scheduled Caste list of that State has been received.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

Issue of Arms Licences

2555. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is necessary for the District Magistrate to verify the character of the applicants by

the police at the State and local level before issuing the arms licences to the applicants under the Arms Act;

(b) if so, the reasons for this dual system;

(c) whether the dual investigation is prescribed for both the breach loading and muzzle loading arms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Under the existing provisions of Arms Act, 1959 and the rules framed thereunder, a District Magistrate is empowered to grant arms licences for possession of Non-prohibited bore fire-arms which includes Breach Loading/Muzzle Loading arms, valid for the concerned District/State. In order to verify character and antecedents of applicants before grant of arms possession licences, a provision has been prescribed under the said Act/ Rules vide which it is obligatory upon the licensing authority to call for the report of the officer in charge of the nearest police station before granting or refusing to grant arms possession licences. The existing provisions also stipulate that if the officer in charge of the nearest police station does not send his report within the prescribed time, the licensing authority may grant or refuse to grant a licence after expiry of the prescribed time without waiting for that report, on the basis of merits of each cases.

[English]

Elephant Sanctuaries

2556. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Elephant Sanctuaries in the country;

(b) the States where these sanctuaries are located;

(c) whether the Central Government have been funding Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary near Bhubaneswar in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the assistance provided to the sanctuary during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and the current system of scientific management, wildlife sanctuaries now cover the ecosystem as a whole instead of the earlier concept of sanctuaries for individual animals. For elephant conservation, the task force of Project Elephant has identified 11 inter-state and state level elephant reserves as listed at statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The central assistance provided to the Government of Orissa for Chandaka Sanctuary under the C.S.S. Scheme of National Parks and Sanctuaries over the last 3 years is as under :

S.No.	Year	Amount of Assistance
1.	1993-94	Rs. 15.50 lakhs
2.	1994-95	Rs. 3.0 lakhs
3.	1995-96	Rs. 6.16 lakhs

Statement

List of Identified Elephant Reserves

S.No.	Name of Reserve	State
1.	South West Bengal, South Bengal, Bihar-North Orissa Inter State Elephant Reserve	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
2.	Kameng-Sonitpur Inter-State Elephant Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam
3.	Dibru-Deomali Inter-State Elephant Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam
4.	Kaziranga-Karbelong-Intanki-Inter State Elephant Reserve	Assam, Nagaland
5.	Barail-Saifung Inter-State Elephant Reserve	Meghalaya
6.	Balphakram Elephant Reserve	Meghalaya
7.	Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala
8.	Nilambur Silent Valley	Kerala, Tamil Nadu
9.	Annamalai-Parambikulam	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
10.	Periyar	Kerala, Tamil Nadu
11.	Corbett-Rajaji	Uttar Pradesh