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Written Answers

[Translation]

Safety of MPs

3246. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently received some letters from Members of Parliament to provide Police constable for the safety of their life and property;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government receives from time to time references from Members of Parliament and takes action on the basis of advice of security agencies for determining level of threat and provides appropriate security. Since 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under the constitution of India and responsibility for providing security to persons residing within their jurisdiction is that of concerned State/UT Government, such references wherever necessary, are also forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government for appropriate action.

[English]

Procurement of Wheat

3247. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
SHR! R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether domestic procurement of wheat during the current year has been much better than expected;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantity of wheat procured by FCI during the current year upto June 30, 1997;
- (d) whether in spite of giving incentive to the farmers, the Government have not been able to procure wheat in sufficient quantity from the farmers;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to promote procurement in non-traditional States;
- (f) whether there are conflicting reports about the wheat stock and import;
- (g) if so, the factual position of procurement of wheat; and
- (h) the extent to which the wheat procurement has been sufficient and whether in view of procuring sufficient quantity of wheat, the Government have dropped their decision to import the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) A quantity of 92.02 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured for Central Pool in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 upto 30.6.97 as against 81.39 lakh tonnes of wheat procured during the corresponding period of last Rabi Marketing Season. The quantity of wheat procured is sufficient to meet the TPDS requirements.

(f) There is a discrepancy in the stock position of wheat maintained by the Ministry and the FCI, which is being reconciled. Imported wheat during 1996-97 conforms to the parameter prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary and quarantine norms laid down by Government. Another 10 lakh tonnes has been contracted for import during 1997-98.