

Tripura	568	9/96
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	135881	8/96
West Bengal	19773	9/96
Andaman and Nicobar	119	9/96
Chandigarh	7996	6/96
D and N Haveli	20	8/96
Daman and Diu	32	9/96
NCT of Delhi	35710	10/96
Lakshadweep	26	11/96
Pondicherry	1149	11/96
Total	766571	

Purchase of Urea at Higher Price

2608. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers are purchasing urea at higher prices as the officers of the State Government do not have the information about the supply of the fertilizers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to improve the situation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) Urea is allocated to each State under Essential Commodities Act for Kharif and Rabi seasons separately in consultation with the State Governments. Supply Plan indicating the quantities of urea to be supplied by different manufacturers in each season to every State/ Union Territory is prepared and notified. State Governments have been regularly monitoring the availability and sales of Urea. Ceiling on sale price of urea which is uniform throughout the country is fixed under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund Scheme

2609. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposals to the Union Government in regard to the issues relating to Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund Scheme in the State during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the number of proposals accepted/rejected/ pending out of them, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons for rejection/pendency of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat have requested for ad-hoc payments of subsidy from the levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (Non-statutory) vide their letter of 9.10.1996.

The Government of Gujarat have also requested for a revision of the margins for the distribution of levy sugar vide their letter of 26.8.1996.

(c) and (d) Funds have been made available to the FCI for payment to States including Gujarat. The margins will be revised in consultation with the State Government.

Loss of Cattle

2610. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of cattle in the country during the current year till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that several cattles died due to unidentified disease; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to identify the disease alongwith the preventive measures being taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVAN PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being gathered from the State and Union Territory Government and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Central Rice Research Institute

2611. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has celebrated its Golden Jubilee from 23-25 September, 1996;

(b) whether for this occasion the international tenders were invited by Central Rice Research Institute in July, 1996 through the national and international newspapers;

(c) whether all these tenders were awarded to the local contractors and sellers in violation of the audit rules;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the action taken by the Government on the report of the B.L. Jangeera Committee which was set up to

inquire into the irregularities prevalent in the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack; and

(f) the follow up on the report of Departmental Inquiry Committee set up to inquire into the case of fatal attack on officers on 17 January, 1997 in the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. The proposed Golden Jubilee Celebrations could not be held due to the announcement of the bye-elections for the Cuttack Parliamentary Constituency. However, as part of Golden Jubilee Celebrations, an International Symposium on Refined Rice for Sustainable Food Security was organised from 23-25 September, 1996 at Cuttack.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The report has been examined and has been forwarded to CRRI for strict compliance and necessary rectifications.

(f) The personnel, who were identified by a team of senior officers, for creating and instigating trouble have been transferred from CRRI in public interest. The Director has been advised to be careful and exercise better control in the activities of the Institute. Separate action by the local police authorities is being taken on the complaint lodged by the Officer attacked upon.

Killing of Animals for Cosmetic Purposes

2612. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the species of animals used in the manufacturing of cosmetics which have since become extinct and the number of species on the verge of extinction; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to maintain the ecological balance and to prevent killings of such animals for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) According to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), only the Albino Guinea Pigs, Albino rabbits, guinea pigs, New Zealand white rabbits and mice are used for testing of cosmetics. None of these species have either become extinct or are threatened with extinction.

(b) Since all these animals are bred in captivity, no threat to the ecological balance is perceived. The Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiment on Animals (CPCSEA) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests proposed in its 7th meeting dated 2.8.1996, that the items of cosmetics and toiletries falling under Schedule 'S' of the Drugs and Cosmetics

Rules, for which testing is mandatory, should be rescheduled and the choice may be left to the manufacturers, to test or not to test the products on animals. The products not tested on animals, should display the statement "Not tested on animals". The Bureau of Indian Standards in its 7th meeting of the Cosmetics Sectional Committee held on 11.9.96 has unanimously accepted these recommendations. However, for novel ingredients/product formulations, it would be necessary for the manufacturers to carry out the testing as stipulated under the Rules. These decisions of the BIS shall become operative, as and when published by them.

[English]

Targeted Public Distribution System

2613. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision of the Government to provide 10 kg. of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System at half the normal price per month to the families below the poverty line will not be beneficial in the long run to them;

(b) whether the poor family gets about 20 kg. per month on an average from the ration shop as against the requirement of about 50 kg.;

(c) whether under the Scheme the balance of 30 kg. has to be bought by them from the open market;

(d) whether the same poor will now have to buy 40 kg. from the market and the total price which the family has to pay per month will be much more after getting 10 kg. at half price under the Targeted Public Distribution System; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (e) The Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a Statement in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.1997 on introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System and detailed guidelines containing information on various aspects issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House. The scale of issue has been fixed taking into account the total availability of foodgrains through procurement, the number of families below the poverty line, the average lifting by States during the last 10 years and the need to cater to the population above the poverty line who are now having access to P.D.S.

P.D.S. is not a substitute for open market but only supplement to it.