

(b) and (c) Adequate attention is being paid by the afore-mentioned units for the control of air and water pollution. The Plants are also subjected to regular inspections by the Orissa Pollution Control Board.

(d) and (e) The fertiliser plants referred to in part (a) have installed various measures to check the water and air pollution. FCIs Talcher Unit has an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for control and disposal of all the pollutants, green belt development and environmental monitoring programmes etc. Close co-ordination is maintained by various departments of the plant for proper operation and maintenance of pollution control system with regular monitoring of the quality of the effluents, stack emission and ambient air quality.

The fertilizer unit of SAIL at Rourkela has engaged National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to design cost effective and functional additional systems to meet the prescribed standards for discharge of liquid effluent into inland surface waters.

[Translation]

Post-matric Scholarships

5825. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether amount fixed for scholarship for post-matric is adequate keeping in view the present index;

(b) is not, the steps taken to enhance the amount of scholarship; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The maintenance allowance rates under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have already been increased with effect from 1.10.1995, by about 50% in case of professional and technical courses and by about 30% in case of non-professional and non-technical courses. The maintenance allowance rates have been increased to the extent possible. In view of the financial constraints it is not possible to link it with the Price Index for Industrial Workers. However, income ceiling for eligibility is based on the consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for October, 1995.

Caste Certificate to Bengali and Sindhis

5826. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether caste certificates are not being given to the Bengali and Sindhi refugees who came from the Eastern and Western Pakistan and settled in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting them despite granting them the citizenship; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Bengali and Sindhi are territorial names and not the names of communities. Members of these groups, if they belong to a particular community and if it is listed as a Scheduled Caste in that State at the time of acquiring Indian citizenship, then only they are eligible to be treated as members of a listed community.

[English]

TADA Cases

5827. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have examined the recommendations of the Committees, Experts and the judgement given in the courts for reconsideration to replace TADA;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the courts have been finding it difficult to dispose of the cases due to lapse of TADA; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to dispose of the said cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) The erstwhile Terrorist & Disruptive Activities Act, 1987 whose constitutionality was upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court was allowed to lapse in May, 1995 because of the criticism that some of its provisions were allegedly misused. After detailed discussions with various State Governments and Leaders of Political Parties, Criminal Law Amendment Bill which sought to fill in the vacuum created by TADA was introduced in Rajya Sabha in May, 1995 and the same is pending in the House. The Bill broadly seeks to strike a balance between Human Rights concerns and the requirement to combat terrorism. Government would like to hold wider consultations on the various provisions of the above Bill before moving for its consideration by the Parliament. The Supreme Court in its Judgement of February 1996 categorised TADA detenu for grant of bail

which had to be followed by Designated TADA Courts. Lapse of erstwhile TADA does not create any difficulty in disposal of pending proceedings because of Saving Clause, Section 1 (4) of the erstwhile TADA. Pending proceedings can be disposed off as if the Act had not lapsed. However, no new case of proceeding can be instituted.

Loans to Farm Sector

5828. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to nationalised banks for fixing the percentage of loan to be given to agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agriculture sector has received the loan from banks on the basis of fixed percentage and in accordance with its economic requirements;

(d) if so, the economic requirements of agriculture sector during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the percentage of loan provided by banks during the said period; and

(e) the additional steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the loan facility to the agriculture sector to meet the economic requirement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The stipulated target fixed for Lending by the Commercial banks to the Agriculture Sector is 18% of Net Bank Credit.

(c) to (e) The percentage of agricultural advances to the net bank credit by the Commercial Banks during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97 are given as under:

Years	Priority Sector Lending Target for Agriculture	%age of Agricultural Advances to net Bank Credit
1994-95	18%	13.91
1995-96	18%	14.29
1996-97	18%	N.A.

To step up the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank for

Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken following steps:

- (i) The commercial banks have been asked to increase the credit flow to agriculture by 25% during the year 1996-97, as compared to the previous year;
- (ii) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which are partly meeting the credit requirements of small and marginal farmers in the rural areas are being given recapitalisation support;
- (iii) Banks have been advised to set up specialised agricultural branches in each State to exclusively deal with high-tech agricultural advances;
- (iv) Banks have been advised to extend cash credit facilities for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having good track record;
- (v) With a view to improving the access of small farmers to institutional credit, NABARD has advised Co-operative banks to earmark funds in favour of small, marginal and economically weak farmers; and
- (vi) NABARD has also advised banks that the credit requirements of those small and marginal farmers (generally upto 10% and upto 20% in Eastern and North-Eastern region) should be met in full.

Godown Facilities

5829. SMT. BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAJ CHIKHALIA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme for wet dates (Kherok) preservation for a long time; and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for preservation of agriculture product for consumption in the country and for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Although no specific project on preservation of dates have been taken up by this Ministry, these can be preserved by conventional methods like drying, preservation in sugar syrup and low temperature storage, etc.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries had operated various Plan Schemes in the Eighth Plan for the promotion of food processing industries, including fruits and vegetable