

system at various levels for reviewing the implementation of the Public Distribution System.

Unidentified Bodies

2482. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Unclaimed bodies" appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated February 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the number of unidentified bodies recovered by the Delhi Police during 1995, 1996 and till date;

(c) the number out of them cremated at the expenses of the Government along with the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the efforts were made to inform the relatives of the deceased through wide publicity;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure the identity before their cremation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Government have been the news-item in question which appeared in the "Indian Express" in its issue of February 13, 1997.

(b) to (e) The information is as under :-

Year	Number of unidentified bodies recovered
1995	1591
1996	1564
1997	246
(upto 28.2.97)	

Despite best efforts made by the police, the relatives of the deceased could not be traced. As such all these unidentified bodies were cremated by the police at Government expense except the unidentified bodies of Muslims which were handed over to the Wakf Board for burial.

(f) The following steps were/are taken for the identification of the unidentified dead bodies before cremation/burial :

- (1) Such bodies are preserved for 72 hours in the mortuary for identification;
- (2) Local enquiries are made;
- (3) Request is made to the Public through newspapers/Doordarshan to help the police in the identification of such bodies;
- (4) the finger prints are preserved and got compared from the Finger Print Bureau;

(5) Photographs of such bodies are got published in the Gazette and also pasted at the public places;

(6) Missing Person Squad of Crime Branch is informed;

(7) Wireless Message is flashed to all Senior Superintendents of Police in India and all Station House Officers in Delhi for the identification of such bodies; and

(8) Hue and Cry Notice is circulated.

[English]

Allotment of Forest Land

2483. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to allot forest land to the occupants in lieu of waste land proposed to be surrendered; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for dereservation of 33 ha. of forest land for assignment of pattas to tribals in Polavaram Range West Godawari district. The proposal has been received in the Ministry on 19.2.97 and is being processed.

[Translation]

Forest Conservation Act, 1980

2484. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many villages in the country are located in jungles and the Department of Forests interferes and puts hurdles in the construction of roads to these villages;

(b) if so, the details of Government policy in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are aware that most of the villages of Sonebhadra district in U.P. even today are located in jungles and there by still deprived of roads; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Diversion of forest land for construction of roads attracts provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for which prior approval of Central Government is required. For this purpose the State Governments have to submit proposals on a prescribed proforma to

the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) and (d) There are several villages all over the country including Uttar Pradesh which are located in forest areas. To expedite the processing of cases, the guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been relaxed for construction of link roads which directly benefit the people of the area by accepting compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted instead of insisting on equivalent non-forest land. Moreover, proposals upto 5 ha. are disposed of by the Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) of the Ministry. Proposals involving forest land between 5 to 20 ha. are processed by the Regional offices of the Ministry in consultation with the state level Advisory Group and sent to the Ministry to for final decision.

Export Agreement

2485. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has signed any export agreement during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) During 1995-96, the Fruits and Vegetable Project, a pilot project, of National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) has signed an agreement for exports of fruits, vegetables products and other related products manufactured at the export oriented unit in Mumbai. The production from this unit would start in 1997-98. Also in 1995-96; Indian Immunologicals, another unit of the NDDDB, has signed an agreement for promotion of biologicals and animal health products in Bangladesh. No exports have so far taken place.

[Translation]

Open Sale Prices of Wheat

2486. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
 SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the open sale price of wheat and rice recently;

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

(c) the reasons for this price hike in the open market price of wheat and rice; and

(d) its impact on the common man and farmers already hit by the high prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
 (a) Open sale prices of wheat were increased in the month of February, 1997. The open sale prices of rice were last revised on 28.6.96 and were made effective from 1.7.96 and are still applicable.

(b) Statements indicating the open sale prices of wheat and rice as on date are at statement I and II respectively.

(c) Keeping in view the wide gap in the market prices vis-a-vis open sale prices notified by the Government to neutralise the freight element paid by FCI in moving wheat from procuring areas to consuming areas, to reduce the subsidy burden on open sale, and to discourage the traders from making undue profit, the Government decided to revise the open sale prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997. The prices of rice, however, have not been revised after July, 1996.

(d) The sales of wheat and rice in the open market have a sobering effect on the market prices. Had there not been open sales the price-rise would have been higher.

Statement-I

Statement Indicating Prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997 till further Orders.

S.No.	Name of the Major Centre	Rate Rs./per MT
1	2	3
1.	Guwahati	7500
2.	Mumbai	7400
3.	Nagpur	7400
4.	Indore	7200
5.	Gualior	6000
6.	Raipur	7400
7.	Ahmedabad	7300
8.	Surat	7300
9.	Cuttack	7400
10.	Bhubaneswar	7400
11.	Patna	6500
12.	Ranchi	7000
13.	Calcutta	7400
14.	Siliguri	7400
15.	Delhi	5000
16.	Chandigarh	4900
17.	Lucknow	5400
18.	Kanpur	5400