

- (iv) BOT model will be generally used for private sector participation with the assets reverting free to the port after concession period. Evaluation will be made on the basis of criteria laid down clearly in the tender document and will be on the basis of maximum realisation to the port using NPV analysis.
- (v) The concession period would be decided upon by the respective Port Trusts in each case with the maximum period not exceeding thirty years.
- (vi) The Port will give no guarantee either for financial return or for the traffic which can be expected.
- (vii) The Tariff Authority may fix a ceiling tariff and leave the private entrepreneur free to charge upto to the ceiling at the rates to be notified by the entrepreneur. If the Tariff Authority is satisfied, a suitable periodic increase in tariff may be permitted on justified grounds.
- (viii) Private Sector Participation will be on the basis of open competitive bidding based on two cover system.
- (ix) The criteria for evaluation in taking on lease equipments/ports crafts by Port Trust, and for pilotage will be the least cost to the ports.
- (x) There will be no adverse effect on port labour. No retrenchment will be done without the concurrence of labour and only in accordance with Industrial Disputes Act and relevant labour laws. Lessee will be bound by all the labour laws of the country.

[Translation]

Schemes for Population Control

397. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any new special scheme for the population control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government also propose to make available high and better quality contraceptive pills for the population control;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the World Health Organisation has given any advice or assistance in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL

SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) A new scheme viz. Community Award Scheme has been introduced in 1996 under which one revenue village with a population of more than 500 which registers the lowest crude birth rate, lowest infant mortality rate, lowest child mortality rate, and lowest maternal mortality rate in each district during the year, will be given an award of Rs. 2 lakhs.

(d) and (e) The contraceptive pills distributed under National Family Welfare Programme conform to the quality standards prescribed under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

(f) and (g) World Health Organisation has given raw material for tableting oral contraceptive pills in 1993, as commodity assistance.

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER

(I) Successful Testing and Launching of Prithvi Missile

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to make a statement in connection with the successful launching of the Prithvi Missile.

Sir, I rise before the House to convey my own congratulations and the good wishes of the entire country to the scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation who have successfully tested the 250-km. range version of the Prithvi Missile yesterday. As is known, this version is for the use of the Indian Air Force and will significantly add to our defensive capability. As the House is aware, we have placed special emphasis on self-reliance in this field and the success of yesterday's launch is one more milestone in our programme. The DRDO and its team of dedicated scientists have done the nation proud and I am sure the House will join me in placing on record our deep appreciation for the excellent work done by them.

(II) Targetted Public Distribution System

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Sir, a well targetted and properly functioning Public Distribution System is an important constituent of the strategy for poverty eradication. However, the Public Distribution System as it now stands has been widely criticised for its failure to serve the population below the poverty line, its urban bias, and lack of transparent and accountable arrangements for delivery. Realising this, the Government proposes to streamline the Public Distribution System targeting it on the poor by issuing special cards to families Below the Poverty Line (BPL) and selling essential articles under the PDS to them at specially subsidised prices, with better monitoring of the delivery system.

As indicated in the Central Budget 1996-97, a beginning in this regard is proposed to be made where the need is most acutely felt namely issue of foodgrains.

To start with, it is proposed to issue 10 kg. of foodgrains per family, per month, at half the issue prices for all families below the poverty line as per the estimates for 1993-94 arrived at by the Planning Commission using the methodology of the Expert Group under Prof. Lakdawala. Further as recommended by the Conference of Chief Ministers, the average lifting of foodgrains for the last ten years by the States is proposed to be continued for the benefit of the population Above the Poverty Line (APL) at present getting the benefit of the Public Distribution System. The quantity of foodgrains out of this average lifting which is in excess of the requirement for the population below poverty line, is proposed to be allocated to States as a transitory allocation, at the Central Issue Prices.

Government also proposes to extend the issue of specially subsidised foodgrains to the beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) and issue of one kilogram of Rice/Wheat per person per day.

It is well known that the Central Issue Prices for rice and wheat have not been revised after 1.2.1994. Subsequently, the Minimum Support Price for both Rice and Wheat have been raised three and four times respectively. Taking into account these revisions and the increase in other incidental charges and at the same time not to cause too much of hardship to the people, Government have proposed to fix the Central Issue Prices for the Targetted PDS as indicated below :

Issue Price (Rs./kg.)	Common	Rice Fine	Super fine	Wheat	Total Subsidy (Rs. in Crores)
BPL	3.50	3.50	—	2.50	8282.90
APL	—	6.50	7.50	4.50	

The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is primarily focused on the poor and will benefit 32 crore people Below the Poverty Line. The food subsidy under the TPDS will be about Rs. 8,000 crore. A quantum of 180 LMT of foodgrains is likely to be issued under the TPDS.

Any State which wants to cover a large number of persons or increase the scale of issue or reduce the price, is free to do so provided it can meet the additional requirement of foodgrains and funds from its own resources.

In implementing the Targetted Public Distribution System, State Governments must identify the beneficiaries under T.P.D.S., issue special cards to them and ensure

delivery of foodgrains to these intended beneficiaries. Detailed guidelines have been issued in this regard and they are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 1363/97] I do hope that the State Governments will follow these guidelines scrupulously and see that the poorest section of our society get their entitled quantum of foodgrains without fail.

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we shall take up Papers Laid on the Table and then we shall come back to Zero Hour.

Papers under Sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1346/97]

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1347/97]

Notifications under Section 31 of the SEBI Act, 1992

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Security and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 :—

- (1) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 345 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1348/97]