

(c) Intending purchasers were required to buy a minimum of 10,000 metric tonnes or more at the rate of Rs. 700 per quintal on "as is where is basis", and selection of purchasers was done on "first come first serve basis". On review of progress of disposal, the minimum lot size was reduced to 600 metric tonnes in June, 1998, and a floor price of Rs. 700 per quintal was fixed. Against fresh public tender notice issued, offers for 59261 metric tonnes have been accepted for disposal.

[English]

#### **Reservations for Disabled**

\*494. SHRI N. DENNIS :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to secure reservation not less than 3% to the disabled as provided in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 in all Government educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have utilized the amount sanctioned by the Union Government under the National Disabled Welfare Fund during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) the achievements made during the said period;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The information has been called for from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education).

(c) No funds have been provided to the State Governments under National Fund for People with Disabilities which is meant for support to the voluntary sector.

(d) to (g) Question does not arise.

#### **Union Home Minister's Meeting with Chief Ministers**

\*495. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Home Minister called a meeting of Chief Ministers of five States to discuss and evolve a joint strategy to deal effectively with the problem of the extremist violence;

(b) if so, the names of the States invited for the meeting;

(c) the details of main subjects discussed and outcome thereof;

(d) whether any action plan was prepared during the said meeting;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to implement them;

(f) whether there is any proposal to initiate a TADA like law to combat naxalite menace;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Naxalites are still striking at their targets at will; and

(i) if so, the details of killings carried out by them from June till date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) The Union Home Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa on 15.6.1998 at Hyderabad to review the action being taken by these States to curb the activities of left wing extremists. In this meeting, the following decisions were taken:—

(i) The existing laws such as the National Security Act will continue to be invoked by the concerned State Governments. Simultaneously, the State Governments could examine enactment of a separate law to deal with the left wing extremist problem;

(ii) A comprehensive plan of action encompassing development activities as well as stepped up security measures will have

to be prepared by the States. Andhra Pradesh Government have already prepared such a plan which has been referred to the Planning Commission. Other State Governments should also prepare similar plans which will be taken up with the Planning Commission for allocation of funds;

- (iii) A Coordination Centre will be set up at Hyderabad for reviewing the progress of the Action Plan and to coordinate the efforts of the State Governments. Union Home Secretary will be the Chairman of the Committee with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the four States as Members.

Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the Coordination Centre on 26.6.1998. State Governments have been requested to take immediate action on the decisions taken at the meeting. Action taken by the State Governments is being reviewed from time to time.

(h) The naxalites in these States are still perpetrating violent incidents.

- (i) According to available information the details of the killings by naxalites from June 16 to July 15, 1998 are as under:—

Andhra Pradesh	9
Madhya Pradesh	4

#### High Level Committee on PDS/RPDS

\*496. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :  
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a high level Committee set up by the Government for examining the possibility of extending double ration benefits to remote and hilly areas of the country has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Composition of the Committee;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) envisaging issue of special cards to families below poverty line (BPL) and making available foodgrains to them @ 10 kg. per family per month at specially subsidised prices was launched in June, 1997. With the launch of TPDS with its focus on "poor in all areas", the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) introduced in 1992 with its emphasis on "all in poor areas" has become redundant.

(c) No high level Committee was set up by the Government of India for the specific purpose of examining the possibility of extending double ration benefits to remote and hilly areas of the country.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### Foreign Mercenaries

\*497. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign mercenaries and insurgents run the civil administration in different border areas of the country including Rajwar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir and also collect revenues in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure smooth running of administration by the Government; and

(d) the number of foreign mercenaries nabbed and apprehended from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other border States during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No foreign mercenaries or