

imposed on petrol during the previous year has been utilised in a planned manner; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated and the original cost of each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Import Duty of Pulses

425. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have abolished import duty on pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether pulses have been under OGL; and

(d) if so, the loss suffered by the exchequer as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pulses classifiable under heading No. 07.13 of the Customs Tariff have been fully exempted from customs duty through a Notification dated 2.11.1998.

(c) As per the present EXIM Policy, pulses are freely importable.

(d) The revenue loss on account of the exemption from customs duty is estimated to be Rupees one hundred crores in a full year.

ISI Backed Terrorist Outfits

426. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some ISI backed terrorist outfits are creating insurgency in the North-Eastern states;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to check insurgency?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.

ADVANI) : (a) and (b) There are reports of ISI providing training arms, etc. to North-Eastern insurgents.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to check insurgency in the North-Eastern States include, inter alia, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore

427. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (F.A.C.T.) Kerala has a full time Chairman;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman had made a public statement that about 3000 workers would be retrenched;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the management has a plans to retrench any worker or employee; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to strengthen F.A.C.T. and make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Fertilizer And Chemical Travancore Limited (FACT) has been vacant since 13.3.1998 after the sudden demise of the previous incumbent. The additional charge of CMD, FACT has been entrusted to CMD of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) since 16.4.1998.

(c) to (e) In the press conference after the Annual General Body Meeting in September, 1998 the acting CMD had generally mentioned various steps which would help in improving the performance of the Company. The rationalisation and redeployment of redundant manpower was stated to be one of them. There was no mention about retrenchment of the employees.

(f) Fact has been posting profits since several