

*[English]***Import of Foodgrains**

2065. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether foodgrains have been imported during the last two years;

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

(c) the reasons for import of foodgrains;

(d) the quantity and countries from which these have been imported;

(e) whether the Government propose to import foodgrains during 1998;

(f) if so, the quantity and estimated cost thereof, separately; and

(g) the countries from which these are likely to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) Government constantly reviews the stock of foodgrains in the central pool vis-a-vis the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for Public Distribution System/other welfare Scheme, open market prices etc, and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. Due to lower production of wheat in the country during 1996-97, Government had decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat each during 1996-97 and 1997-98 to augment its availability in the country with a view to containing the prices in the domestic market. STC contracted for import of wheat from Australia, Canada and Argentina as per details given below:

Country	Qty. in lakh MT	Price PMT in US\$	Date of Contract
1	2	3	4
1996-97			
Australia	10.00	148.00 FOB	10.12.96
	1.25	156.00 FOB	31.01.97
	2.00	156.00 FOB	14.02.97
Canada	2.50	152.50 FOB	11.12.96
Argentina	1.00	173.00 C&F	04.02.97

	1	2	3	4
1997-98				
Australia		2.50	153.40 FOB	26.03.97
		7.50	152.65 FOB	26.03.97

(e) Yes Sir, Government, after reviewing the status of wheat production during 1997-98 Rabi season, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99.

(f) and (g) STC has contracted for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia @ US\$ 142.50 FOB during 1998-99. The estimated cost of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat works out to US\$ 214 million (Approx. Rs. 855/- crores @ US\$ 1+Rs.40/-), Government has decided not to import the balance 5.00 lakh tonnes of wheat at present.

Santosh Duggal Committee

2066. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Santosh Duggal Committee had made some recommendations on jail reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Santosh Duggal Committee, in its Report on 'Rationalisation of Classification of Prisoners in Tihar Jails', has made the following recommendations:

(1) The prevailing system of classification, sanctioned by Rules 34 and 38 of the Delhi Jail Manual by means of Notification No. F. 9 (75)/87-HG (IV) dated 18.04.88- the Delhi Prison (Admission, Classification, Separation, Remission, Reward and Release of Prisoners) Rules, 1988- cannot be justified on Constitutional and human rights grounds, and ought to be abolished.

(2) The broad criteria for segregation of prisoners should be as given below:

- (i) Convicts
- (ii) Undertrials
- (iii) Gender
- (iv) Age
- (v) Nature of crime
- (vi) Previous history—whether habitual or casual
- (vii) Prison term
- (viii) Kind of sentences
- (ix) Nationality
- (x) Civil Prisoners

- (xi) Detenues
- (xii) Security requirements
- (xiii) Disciplinary or administrative requirements
- (xiv) Correctional, educational or medical needs.

(3) The segregation of prisoners should be taken to its logical end and the remedial measures should include, among others, provision of adequate number of jail vans with necessary supporting staff, steps for segregation of prisoners in judicial lockups, a careful screening and selective use of convict officers.

(4) Amenities or facilities to be provided to prisoners should be uniformly available and guided by their specific needs and consistent with the objective of imprisonment, namely, deterrence-cum-punishment as also correctional for the purposes of rehabilitation and preventing recidivism.

(5) The conditions in jails should be such that these are commensurate with basic human dignity and normal requirements from the viewpoint of living space, nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation.

(6) Concerted steps should be taken to reduce overcrowding and congestion of prisoners, as it gives rise to a number of problems and operates as a restricting factor in any effort or strategy for improvement of jail administration or the lot of prisoners.

(7) As the treatment of prisoners has to be of a uniform pattern on a need based approach, more Social Welfare Officers should be deployed to maintain touch with inmates and apprise the authorities of the problems being faced by a prisoner or a group of prisoners. A minimum of three Social Welfare Officers be appointed for each jail and one senior officer, to be designated as Chief Welfare Officer, ought to be posted in the Headquarters.

(10) Additional prison buildings preferably in proximity to the present and future court complexes as also the judicial lockups, should be planned and constructed with utmost priority and sense of urgency. This would help in relieving congestions in Jails, achieving diversification objective and providing better administration of Jails and Justice.

(11) The scheme for the rehabilitation of discharged prisoners being implemented through the Directorate of Social Welfare should be further strengthened and finance should not act a constraint for achieving the desired results.

(12) Concerted steps should be taken both as short term objective such as better management of the existing facilities and infrastructure as well as long term objective by amending the rules to provide minimum standard of food, living space, bedding, clothing etc. also taking into account the suggestions made by Justice Mulla Committee.

(13) Action should be initiated to formulate a comprehensive Delhi Jail Manual so that the system of improving the jail administration becomes stabilised.

(15) The parity with undertrials in so far as enjoyment of canteen facilities is concerned should be maintained for convicts on humanistic considerations and may also be allowed to supplement food and other articles of personal daily use from the canteen on payment.

(16) Subject to administrative feasibility and expediency as also security requirement, the activities such as cultural programmes, panchayats, samparksabhas, sports, meditation, prayer meetings, recreation (indoor and outdoor), etc., being organised in jails, should be strengthened both in terms of coverage and contents.

(17) In case any further interaction or group activity, is to be considered that should be for facilities which have the potential of generating self improvement in the prisoner, with an eye on his reformation or rehabilitation, such as with (1) counsellors, (2) vocational guides and physical instructor, (3) behavioural scientists, (4) teachers of moral and ethical values, and similar other groups.

(18) The rules pertaining to the treatment of prisoners as formulated in accordance with the recommendations of this Committee should be duly displayed in the jail buildings, besides in Hindi and English, in the languages with which majority of prisoners belonged.

Epidemic Diseases Including Brain Fever

2067. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children died due to brain fever (Japanese Encephalitis) in Bellary District of Karnataka during the last ten years;

(b) the number of children out of them died during 1997;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka for setting up a branch of National Institute of Virology in the State to study various epidemic disease scientifically including brain fever;

(d) if so, whether any project has been prepared by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the proposed project;

(f) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any amount for the implementation of the said projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) As per available reports, 114