

[Translation]

**Recognisations to SC/ST Union**

2090. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recognised general trade union welfare Association and other departmental staff organisations officially;

(b) if so, the steps taken to recognise the labour organisations and Union Welfare Associations of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The recognition of trade union is governed by Labour Laws. The recognition of Departmental Staff Association is governed by the provision of Central Civil Services (Recognition for Service Association) Rules, 1993. According to Rule 5 (f), 'The Service Association shall not be formed to represent the interests, or on the basis, of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or of any group within or section of such caste, tribe or religious denomination'.

**FCI Offices in Maharashtra**

2091. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of FCI in Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to open some more offices in the State during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In Maharashtra, FCI has the following set up:

Zonal Office at Mumbai.

Regional Office at Mumbai.

Sub-Regional Office at Nagpur.

District Offices at:

1. Panval
2. Mumtai City Godown
3. Borivilli
4. Manmad
5. Poona

6. Nagpur

7. General Motors (Mumbai)

8. Bombay Docks

(b) No specific proposal is currently being considered.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

**Expenditure on Research**

2092. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drugs manufacturing companies are spending a meagre amount on research;

(b) if so, the percentage of amount being spent on research at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any direction to drug-manufacturing companies for increasing this amount; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Government is likely to issue such directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) All drug manufacturing companies do not spend on R&D. However, quite a few of the drug companies spend on research and progressive companies spent upto 9% of their annual turnover on R&D.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Reconstitution of North Eastern Council**

2093. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to reconstitute the North-Eastern Council with the inclusion of Sikkim as an integral part of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times the said Council met during the last three years; and

(d) the main problems discussed and recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The North Eastern Council is proposed to be reconstituted with the inclusion of Sikkim and the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission as its Chairperson. The requisite bill will shortly be move before the Parliament.

(c) and (d) The North Eastern Council has met thrice during the last three years. The important recommendations made during these meetings include, *inter-alia*, restructuring of North Eastern Council to include Sikkim; adoption of special economic and industrial policy for the North Eastern region; introduction of helicopter services in the North Eastern region; according priority to construction of roads and bridges; provision of funds for maintenance of roads constructed with funds from the North Eastern Council; and provision of resources for development of airports in the North Eastern region.

#### Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy

2094. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to introduce pharmaceutical pricing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pricing policy for the manufacture of herbal drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', were announced in September, 1994 and based on that Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy is already in existence.

(c) Existing pricing policy covers drugs used only for Allopathic medicines.

#### Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labour

2095. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) the number of mine/agricultural labourer in Maharashtra, category-wise, State-wise;

(b) the minimum wages fixed for these labourers in each State;

(c) the date of last revision in wages; and

(d) the factors taken into consideration for determining the minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both Central and State Governments are appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages for scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The Central Government is the appropriate Government in respect of the employment in various mines. Statement-I giving State-wise number of workers employed in various mines as on 1993 including coal mines and the existing minimum rate of wages as revised on 1.4.1998 for various categories of employment in mines is enclosed as Statement-II.

However, the State Governments are mainly the appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages in respect of Agricultural workers. Statement -II indicating available information on minimum rate of wages for unskilled, number of workers and the date of last revision in different States/Union Territories is enclosed as statement-II.

(d) There are no uniform criteria for fixation of minimum rate of wages. The State Government take into account various factors such as socio-economic condition and market forces etc. while determining minimum rate of wages. However, the five norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference in 1952 are generally adopted for fixation of minimum rate of wages. These norms provide for a wage rate sufficient to meet the consumption requirement of a family of 3 units on food, clothing, shelters, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items of consumption. There is a provision of Variable Dearness Allowance as part of minimum wages which is revised every six months as per the variation of Consumer Price Index Number.

#### Statement I

No. of mine workers and the minimum rates of wages as fixed under Minimum Wages Act.

(a) Number of Mine Workers in different States/UT's

States/UT's	No. of Workers (in thousand)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	85
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	19
Bihar	228
Gujarat	23
Haryana	5
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Karnataka	22