

(b) if so, the storage capacity available with them till March, 1998; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to have proper storage?

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

(b) The total storage capacity available with the FCI as on 31.3.1998 was 223.69 lakh tonnes including hired capacity.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil Exploration

1919. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration efforts have been made by ONGC in off shore coast of Goa recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1995-97, 2D/3D seismic surveys have been carried out in the shelf and deep water off Goa coast. ONGC has drilled one exploratory well South-West of Goa coast recently.

Use of Ashoka Emblem by Area Welfare Officers

1920. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Government Officers, who can use Ashoka Emblem of the Government while writing official Letters/D.O. Letters;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some of the Government Officers appointed on Honorary Post of Area Welfare Officer, by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, have got their letter heads printed with their residential addresses and that too with Ashoka Emblem of the Government;

(c) whether the officers appointed on such Honorary Posts of Area Welfare Officers are empowered to use Ashoka Emblem of the Government of their letter-heads with their residential addresses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against such guilty Area Welfare Officers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) The Orders relating to the use of the State Emblem of India permit Government Officers to use demi-official stationery with the State Emblem printed or embossed on it. However, such Orders require that the names of Officers should not be printed on such stationery.

(b) to (e) The Area Welfare Officers have been allowed to use official stationery for entering into correspondence with the concerned authorities and Government servants. However, they have not been permitted to use the State Emblem of India on their letterheads. Some cases where the Area Welfare Officers have used the said Emblem on their letterheads have come to notice. The Department of Personnel and Training has been advised to issue instructions to all the Area Welfare Officers to discontinue the use of the State Emblem of India on their letterheads with immediate effect.

[Translation]

Non-Implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System

1921. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had enquired into the causes of non-implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System in 50 panchayats of Vaishali district during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said facility is likely to be provided shortly to the deprived families;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e) The responsibility for implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) like identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issues of ration cards and distribution of foodgrains to them, etc. rests with the State Governments/ UT Administrations concerned. The Government of India allocates in bulk all PDS commodities including foodgrains under Public Distribution System to the State Government. Further allocation of foodgrains to the districts is done by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

Government of Bihar have reported that based on the survey made by Vaishali District Administration 127604 families are covered under TPDS in that district. The State Government had reports of inclusion of ineligible families in a subsequent survey of the District Administration on account of which, it is reported, instructions have been issued by