

(b) the rate at which these have been procured;

(c) the name of the countries from which these have been imported during the last year till date indicating the quantity and rate thereof separately;

(d) the rate at which these items were sold in the Indian market;

(e) the quantity of imported onion and potato destroyed during the said period;

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the person responsible;

(g) whether the ban imposed has been lifted on export of onion;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of these commodities at reasonable rate in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The estimated production of onion and potato for 1998-99 is 44.5 lakh tonnes and 235.6 lakh tonnes respectively and there is a Minimum Support Price fixed for these items.

(c) During the year 1998-99, Government had authorised import of 10,000 MTs of onions on a need based basis. on Government account through NAFED. As against this authorisation, the NAFED could only import 687 MTs. This quantity was imported from Dubai (Iranian) and Kirgizstan. The total cost involved in import of 687 MTs of onions was equivalent to Rs. 1.61 crores. Potatoes were not imported.

(d) The imported onions were distributed at subsidised rate of Rs. 10 per kg. through the outlets of the public distribution agencies at Delhi.

(e) There was no import of potatoes. Onions imported by NAFED were in good condition and there was no damage.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) The ban on export of onion was partially lifted on 21.1.99 by allowing Bangalore Rose onion and Krihna puram onions as well as 3000 MTs of other onions to Srilanka. Subsequently, on 9.2.99 the Government decided to permit export of 25,000 MTs per month for the next three months through the agencies to be designated by the Government of Maharashtra or by Associate Shippers registered with the designated agencies. These steps have been taken to ensure that onion growers get remunerative prices and onions are available at reasonable prices in the country.

(i) The Government has set up a special Price Monitoring Cell to monitor the prices and availability of essential commodities. The State Governments/ UTs have also been directed to set up similar Cells in their States and to take appropriate actions, including market intervention as a last resort, to ensure adequate supply of onions and potatoes at reasonable prices. 5457/000 198

National Institute for SC/ST at Trivandrum

79. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Kerala for setting up a Regional Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir. Decision to set up a new Regional Institute for Research Training and development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Trivandrum has to be taken by the State Government and it does not require approval of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

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Report of National Commission for Minorities about Atrocities

80. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the role played by the National Commission for Minorities and Backward Classes in investigating the recent attacks on Christians in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the role played by National Commission on Minorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any report has been received by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) In the wake of reported attacks on Christian minorities and their institutions in the

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State of Gujarat, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) had sent a fact finding team to that State during August, 1998. Subsequently, the NCM constituted a Special Bench to conduct further inquiries. The reports of the NCM in this regard have been forwarded to the Government of Gujarat for taking appropriate action insofar as the matter relates to the State Government. Under section 9(3) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, the recommendations made to the State Government under section 9(1) (c) are required to be laid before the State Legislature along with an action taken memorandum. The recommendations pertaining to the Union Government contained in the said reports are under examination. Under section 9(2) of the said Act, the recommendations made to the Union Government under section 9(1) (c) are required to be laid by it before each House of Parliament along with an action taken memorandum. The reports, along with the action taken memorandum, will be laid before each House of Parliament in due course.

[English]

Achievements by NBCF and DC

81. **SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI** : Will the Minister of **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) the details of target/achievements made by the U.P. Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation during the last three years and as on date;

(b) whether any complaints regarding misutilisation of funds by the State Backward Classes Finance Corporation has been received; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The details of target/achievements made by UP Pichara Varg Vitta Evam Vikas Nigam Ltd. during the last three years and as on date are as under :

Year	Target		Achievements	
	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.
1995-96	4906	1327.85	3228	1026.21
1996-97	2556	541.89	773	222.76
1997-98	2100	651.36	1039	340.61
1998-99	5000	2169.19	2679	995.11

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab

82. **SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED** :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :

Will the Minister of **HOME AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the terrorist activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir has increased alarmingly by foreign nationals during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, yearwise and country-wise;

(c) the number of terrorist related incidents took place in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab during each of the last three years, till-date;

(d) the number of casualties suffered by the Army, Paramilitary forces, local police and civilians separately during the said period State-wise;

(e) the number and origin of militants killed/arrested by the security forces in these States during the said period; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check and curb such activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) According to available information, there has been increased involvement of foreign mercenaries in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Punjab militancy is largely sustained by militants based in Pakistan, some other countries and their mentor the Pak ISI. However, the number of terrorist related incidents has declined both in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab during the last three years.

(b) Separate statistics of involvement of local militants and foreign mercenaries is not maintained.

(c) and (d) As per information available, Statement-I indicating the number of terrorist related incidents that took place in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab during 1996, 1997, 1998 and upto 31.1.1999 and the number of casualties suffered by the Army, Para-Military Forces, local police and civilians during the above period is annexed.

(e) Statement-II indicating the number of militants killed/arrested by the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab during 1996, 1997, 1998 and upto 31.1.1999 is annexed.

(f) The Government have adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the situation which inter-alia includes strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive steps against them in the hinterlands as also setting up of out posts of security