

Agmark Certification

3. **SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR** : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the agricultural food products available in the market do not conform with Agmark Certification;

(b) whether the Government propose to make it compulsory to get Agmark Certification for all the food products keeping in view the recent Dropsy epidemic;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to amend Agricultural Produce Grading and Marketing Act, 1937?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wind up of FCI Depots

4. **SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI** : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to wind up some Food Corporation of India depots in Calcutta in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether the distribution system of foodgrains through Ration Shops in those places is likely to be disturbed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for distribution of ration system and rehabilitation of jobless persons in the State?

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

(b) A decision has been taken to dehire Brooklyn Depot having a capacity of 80,000 MTs in Calcutta Port Trust and the FCI Godown at Asansol having a capacity of 40,000 MTs, for the reason that these Godowns have been found to unstorageworthy and under-utilised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The foodgrains for public distribution would be issued from the nearby depots in consultation with the State Authorities.

There would be no retrenchment of any staff or workman of the Corporation as they would be adjusted in other depots of the Corporation.

Smuggling of Drugs

5. **SHRI T. GOVINDAN** : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the smuggling of drugs are on the rise in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Drug trafficking is a clandestine activity and therefore it cannot be said definitely whether its incidence is on the rise or otherwise.

(b) As per information available, the details of narcotic drugs seized in the country during the last three years are as under :

Drugs (in Kgs.)	1996	1997	1998 (Prov.)
Opium	2875	3221	1614
Heroin	1257	1332	520
Ganja	62992	80866	55331
Hashish	6520	3285	7774
Mathaqualone	2212	1740	2081
Cases	12917	13958	9641
Arrest	13554	14565	10426

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Govt. of India to curb the smuggling of drugs which include maintenance of utmost vigil and stepping of enforcement efforts by the Enforcement Agencies, imparting of training to the officers to improve their effectiveness, fencing and flood lighting of Indo-Pak border, Deployment of BSF and Coast Guards with powers to interdict narcotic drugs, implementation of Reward scheme for informers/enforcement officers, holding of quarterly coordination meetings of Enforcement Agencies, holding of meetings under the bilateral agreement with Pakistan, entering of bilateral agreement with Govt. of Myanmar etc.

Unauthorised Colonies in Chandigarh

6. **SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN** : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of authorised and unauthorised labour colonies in the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate such colonies; and

(c) the time by which all these colonies are likely to be rehabilitated and provided with all basic amenities of life?