

(a) whether the land sold at auction recently to the Scheduled Castes by the Punjab Government was purchased by the High Government officials;

(b) if so, the details of such transaction; and

(c) steps being taken for the restoration of land to poor Scheduled Castes in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) to (c). Information has been called for from the Government of Punjab and will be placed on the table of the House.

Procurement of Cotton

6613. SHRI H. C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton bales procured by Cotton Corporation of India and NAFED during January-March, 1990 in Karnataka;

(b) the total market arrivals of cotton in Karnataka during that period; and

(c) the steps taken to provide support price to the cotton growers in view of glut in the market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Kapas equivalent to 17765 bales of cotton was purchased by CCI and 3400 bales of cotton were purchased by NAFED in collaboration with Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation, during the period January to March, 1990 in Karnataka.

(b) 3.44 Lakh Bales of cotton were estimated to have arrived in Karnataka during this period.

(c) There has been no need to undertake price support operations in Karnataka during the current season since prices of all varieties of Kapas have remained well above support level. However, CCI has kept itself in readiness to undertake price support operations should such need arise.

Export of Food Grains

6614. SHRI Y. S. RAJA SEK HAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export foodgrains; and

(b) the names of the countries to which it is proposed to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to export foodgrains on Government account, except for a quantity of 200 MT of rice agreed to be given as aid to Angola.

Family Planning Advertisements over Doordarshan

6615. SHRI SUBEDAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of the Family Planning advertisement over Doordarshan, like "Jab Pyar ko ji machlaye", "Na roj roj garabh Nirodhak upayon ka jhanjhat" etc, are vulgar obscene and uncalled for and no person can be expected to watch them with their family members; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the standard of these advertisement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) the advertisements referred to relate to NIRODH and vasectomy being telecast on Doordarshan for over one and a half years. No indecent language has been used in these advertisements which have been scrutinised in this Ministry as also in the Doordarshan before being approved for screening.

(b) The question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Expenditure on Octroi System

6616. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative expenditure of Octroi system is more than its revenue;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a Commission with a view to study the existing octroi system;

(c) if so, when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, whether Government have any concrete measures to check traffic obstacles and wipe out corruption prevailing in the existing octroi system?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Being a State subject, the data relating to the revenue earned from Octroi duty and the expenditure incurred on its collection is not being collected by any agency on regular

basis at all India level. However, some of the studies conducted by expert Groups reveal that the cost of collection, as a percentage of gross octroi income was on the high side in respects of smaller towns while it was negligible in respect of bigger municipal towns such as Municipal Corporations.

(b) to (d). In pursuance of a Resolution passed in the Mayors 'Conference held in 1984, the Government of India had set up a Committee on Octroi " to examine the question of augmenting the resources of local bodies taking into account the need to make good the loss which they would sustain in the event of abolition of octroi".

The Committee has submitted its report which is being forwarded to the State Governments who are responsible for the administration of octroi.

Filling of Vacant Posts Reserved for Handicapped Persons

6617. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts reserved for handicapped persons are lying vacant in various Ministries departments of Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the details as on 31.12.88 are:

	<i>Group 'C'</i>	<i>Group 'D'</i>
Visually Handicapped	153	52