

their misuse through misbranding is being examined, as it involves additional costs by way of equipment for handling, coating and colouring material etc. and resultant higher subsidy burden.

Assistance to Bhagalpur Riot Victims

*266. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided any assistance to Bhagalpur riot victims; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). The Central Government has been in contact with the State Government to ensure speedy relief measures to the riot victims. Both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have visited Bhagalpur

An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the Bhagalpur riot victims. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been earmarked for the families of those killed in the riots at the rate of Rs. 10 000/- each. This amount is over and above the ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1.00 lakh each being paid by the State Government. An amount of Rs. 1,500/- per handloom weaver and Rs. 5,000/- per powerloom weaver as grant for purchase of raw-materials is being provided to the affected weavers. A sum of Rs. 27.50 lakhs has been earmarked for this purpose. The remaining sum of Rs. 22.50 lakhs has been earmarked for extending hostel facilities for the students by adding one floor on the existing hostel building.

Infiltration of Afghan Youths in Kashmir

*267. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Afghan youths have infiltrated in Kashmir to indulge in subversive activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the step taken to check such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) The Government have no specific evidence so far that Afghan youths have infiltrated in Kashmir to indulge in subversive activities.

(b) Some of the steps taken are: larger induction of Central Police Forces; revamping of administration; improvement in the functioning of Police Stations; better co-ordination between the State Police/Central Police and the Army; preventive action to apprehend criminals and anti-social elements; and raids and combing operations on selective basis, if and when necessary; and strengthening of vigil on the border

Shrimp Fishing

*268. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual shrimp catch in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether research and development in fish culture is proposed to be further expanded in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c). The annual shrimp catch in

India during the last three years has been as under:

Year	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
1986	2.15
1987	1.93
1988	2.24

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Cochin and Narakkal Centre of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) have stepped up research on seafarming/mariculture and shrimp aquaculture.

To support shrimp farming in Kerala, a shrimp hatchery has been established at Mopla Bay. Government is providing technical assistance to the farmers for scientific shrimp/fish farming. Under the Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development, four farm projects covering an area of 149 ha. have been sanctioned. One Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been sanctioned. In addition, a project on integrated development of prawn farming in Kerala with Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has been initiated at a cost of Rs. 60.00 crores for development of about 1500 ha. of brackishwater area in the State.

[Translation]

Settlement of Soviet Jews in Occupied Territories in Israel

2621. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heads of Missions of Arab countries had held talks with him on the question of setting of large number of Soviet

Jews in occupied territories in Israel;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation of the Arab Heads of Mission met me on March 1, 1990 to discuss developments relating to the proposed settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

(b) and (c). I conveyed to them that India shared the concern of the Palestinians and the Arab countries in this matter. I reiterated India's well known position on the illegality of occupation of these territories by Israel and that such settlements would only compound the illegality. I also stated that such settlements would raise additional difficulties in the creation of conditions necessary for initiating the negotiating process for a peaceful settlement of Palestinian issue.

Setting up of Potato Board

2622. SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Potato Board like the Tea Board keeping in view the increasing demand of potatoes abroad; and

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to set up regional offices of the proposed Potato Board in Uttar Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.