

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government is formulating any scheme for 3-4 thousand slums in Kandla, which have sprung upon the Central Government land and not on the land of the Gujarat Government? Large chunks of land near the coastal areas are lying vacant where the people of these slums can be rehabilitated after reclamation of land. So, will the Government allocate enough funds for reclamation?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked the question pertaining to some specific project. Let the hon. Member ask in writing, then I shall see what can be done in the matter.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Sir, in the Mid Term Appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan, it was found that the meagre amount which was allotted in the State Plan, i.e. Rs. 269 crores, has not been spent properly by many States. I would also like to know what is the amount allotted to Delhi city and how much has been spent?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rs. 9.20 crores were allocated to Delhi in the Sixth Five Year Plan

and their achievement has been 101.5 per cent.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next. Question. Q.No. 699. Shri Jagannath Pattnaik. Q.No. 700. Prof. Parashar.

Increase in number of Fair Price Shops

*700 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to strengthen the public distribution system in the States and the Union Territories during the seventh Five Year Plan, particularly in States affected by drought during the past three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the number of Fair Price Shops and to ensure adequate provision of the essential commodities in them alongwith the number of Fair Price shops in each State/Union Territory as on date; and

(c) whether the Consumer Cooperatives have also been involved in the process and if so, the nature of involvement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (D.L. BAITHA): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below

STATEMENT

Strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System is a continuous process. Central Government has been advising the States and Union Territories, from time to time, to open additional Fair Price shop in the up-served and under-served areas to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities. They have also been advised to give preference to the consumer cooperatives in the opening of new Fair Price Shops. As on 31.12.1987, the total number of Fair Price Shops in the country was 3,45,191 as against 3,19,353 Fair Price Shops as on 31.3.1985. The state-wise position of Fair Price Shops is given below. Further, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 397.20 lakhs has also been

provided to the States/UTs affected by drought/flood etc. during the last three years for the purchase of 177 mobile vans. Additional allotments of wheat, rice, imported edible oils and kerosene have also been made to ensure greater availability of these commodities, especially in drought affected areas.

<i>Code No.</i>	<i>Name of the State/U.T.</i>	<i>1984-85 As on 31.3.85</i>	<i>1985-86 As on 31.3.86</i>	<i>1986-87 As on 31.3.87</i>	<i>1987-88 As on 31.12.87</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	Andhra Pradesh	32895	33688	35193	34594
02	Arunachal Pradesh	337	367	407	440
03	Assam	21969	22669	23306	23619
04	Bihar	39028	39028	39028	39627
05	Gujarat	10423	10761	11290	11520
06	Goa	471	497	526	531
07	Haryana	5970	6185	6453	6447
08	Himachal Pradesh	2827	2850	2934	2988
09	Jammu & Kashmir	2285	2303	2345	2385*
10.	Karnataka	16144	15827	16221	16427
11.	Kerala	12503	12625	12783	12826@
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18833	19276	19980	20353@
13.	Maharashtra	32279	33005	33389	33698
14.	Manipur	1389	1463	1530	1570
15.	Meghalaya	2308	2412	2553	2620
16.	Mizoram	759	684	723	741
17.	Nagaland	161	180	196	205
18.	Orissa	19676	19555	19371	21114
19.	Punjab	10556	10801	10801	10801

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Rajasthan	13362	13608	13586	13751
21.	Sikkim	1065	1057	1136	1169
22.	Tamil Nadu	20723	20723	21035	21035
23.	Tripura	961	1022	1077	1104
24.	Uttar Pradesh	29200	33662	37921	41567
25.	West Bengal	19118	19648	19856	19866
26.	A&N Islands	217	224	230	236
27.	Chandigarh	254	283	287	269
28.	D&N Haveli	196	51	53	55
29.	Delhi	3142	3107	3184	3255
30.	Daman & Diu	included in Goa		included in Goa	31
31.	Lakshadweep	25	25	25	26
32.	Pondicherry	277	287	301	312
Total:		3,19,353	3,27,873	3,37,720	3,45,191

*Relates to 30.6.87 @ Relates to 30.9.87

[Translation]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement laid on the table of the House shows the number of Fair Price Shops functioning in different States. When Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad was looking after the work of this Ministry, he had announced the creation of storage facilities at block level in hilly areas, which remain inaccessible for over six months to enable the Fair Price Shops to lift ration from there. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the scheme propounded by Shri Azad has been implemented or not?

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member must be aware that so far as supply of ration to the fair price shops is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State Governments. The concern of the Central Government in this regard is that the commodities supplied to the States should reach the fair price shops for distribution among the weaker sections. We have all along been telling them that they should ensure the availability of these commodities not only at the block level but at the fair price shops. Many State Governments have accepted the proposal but at the same time they have requested for allowing increase in

the transport expenditure to be increased. If we accept it, then the consumers will get commodities at higher prices.

The Centre has advised the State Government against heavy increase in retail prices. If they want to add a reasonable transport cost, it is upto them. However our concern remains to ensure the availability of rationed commodities to the intended people both in the urban as well as rural areas.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: The hon. Minister has in his reply stated that Rs. 397.20 lakhs have been given to the States for Fair Price Shop. In this connection I would like to know the amount given to Himachal Pradesh?

The hon. Minister mentioned about 177 mobile vans. Have these mobile vans been sent to Himachal Pradesh and other hilly States also or will they be operating in the plains alone?

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: The centre gives loans and subsidy for buying mobile vans to the States. Rs. 15 lakhs were sanctioned to Himachal Pradesh for buying 6 mobile vans during 1987-88. The figures relating to the assistance given for opening different Consumer Cooperative Societies are not available right now.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: The public distribution system and fair price shops are accepted as the best means of making people in the remote areas, particularly rural areas, get essential commodities. Statistics reveal that the number of fair price shops has gone up only by 3%, or less than 3%. For the 5 lakh villages and more than 10 lakh hamlets throughout the country, the increase in the number of shops is quite less. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether taking into account the distance between several ham-

lets in State panchayats, he will take the initiative to instruct the various States to increase the number of fair price shops, also to those hamlets.

SHRID.L. BAITHA: That instruction has already been issued; and generally, we have asked the State Government to cover a population of 2,000 by one fair price shop.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Opening of more Fair Price Shops for expanding public distribution system is good, but inspite of this, poor farmers and labourers fail to get consumer goods. Has the Government ordered inspection of Fair Price Shop in order to have a first hand report about the extent of misappropriation in these shops so as to find out whether or not the consumers received supply of foodgrains at cheap rates from these shops? Will the Government order inspection? Will the Government order investigation of the cases in which the shopkeepers and other people have indulged in bungling to defeat the policies of the Government? In case the Government is not interested in conducting a sample survey, is it contemplating some other action?

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: Without cooperation of the State Governments, nothing can be done. All the complaints of misappropriation are investigated into by the Government.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: At least Government should order a sample survey to be conducted in order to bring the truth to light.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: The hon. Member is talking about sample survey which is the duty of the State Governments, because the complaints which we receive are forwarded to them for further action. So far as the

question of misappropriation to inform the Centre because only through the State Governments, Central Government gets the complaints investigated.

[English]

Illegal Mining of Dolomite

*701. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI SRIHARI RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket in illegal mining of dolomite has been busted with the seizure of huge stocks of dolomite worth Rs. 70 lakhs in Nagpur;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of revenue to the exchequer; and

(c) the action taken by Government to stop illegal mining in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Government of Maharashtra has reported that a case some inferior quality of dolomite having been dug up for use on road-work has been detected. The value of this has been assessed at approximately Rs. 90,000/- as mined. All the material has been seized.

(c) Government has already appointed a Committee to look into the problem of illegal mining and to suggest measures to check such activities.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: The answer of the hon. Minister is misleading. I have asked about illegal mining of dolomite. But the reply

is regarding the digging up of dolomite of inferior quality for road work. Will the hon. Minister state clearly whether there was any illegal mining of dolomite or not? Has there any prosecution been launched against the illegal mining?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I would like to inform the hon. member that the reply is not at all misleading. In all humility, I would say that the question itself is misleading because the question is based on a newspaper's report. They say that some racket or some scandal of illegal mining is there, and that has been smashed. I don't think it is either a racket or a scandal. All that has happened is that some dolomite stone which is just like a limestone, has been extracted from a forest by no less a person than the Zila Parishad engineer. It was a contract allotted to the Zila Parishad for the construction of a particular road. Perhaps the Hon. Member's question was based on that report alleging that it was a racket of Rs. 70 lakhs. It is not correct. I have said in my reply that the value of the mined stone is about Rs. 90,000, all the mined stone has been seized. Prosecution has been launched and the case is *sub-judice*.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: The Minister's reply is that the government has appointed a Committee. For what purpose they have appointed a committee and the need for such a Committee? Whether the government consider that there is a larger scale uncontrollable illegal mining in Maharashtra; if so, since how long this was going on?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I may very humbly tell the hon. Member that it is not only in Maharashtra that illegal mining takes place; illegal mining also takes place in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: For what material?