

(b) if so, the number of cases that came to the notice of Government during the last three years; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There have been some reports to this effect.

(b) Cases of attempted illegal export of 8 tiger-skins and 30 Kgs. of tiger bones come to the notice of the Government during the last three years.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling in the field. The Regional Offices of the Wildlife Preservation have been advised to ensure stricter vigilance at the Airports and Shipyards. The matter has also been raised by Government of India at several international fora with a view also to seek cooperation of "destination" countries.

[Translation]

Vocational Training in M.P.

*398. SHRI BHEEM SINGH FATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of imparting vocational training at Secondary education level in Madhya Pradesh is slow in comparison to other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor.

(c) the total amount allocated to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for this purpose during 1993-94; and

(d) the special measures taken by the Union Government to encourage vocational training at Secondary education level in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) On the basis

of the proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, 1112 vocational sections in 390 schools were approved so far. As per the information available, the State Government has started 1084 vocational sections in 359 schools.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education funds are not allocated to States/UTs. On the basis of proposals received from them financial assistance is provided in accordance with the Scheme. So far no proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the year 1993-94.

(d) The Central Government and the NCERT (Department of Vocational Education, now the CIVE) have been making efforts to promote the implementation of the vocational education programme at the +2 level in Madhya Pradesh. Review meetings have been held with State Government officials and all possible assistance, including academic support, has been extended for improving the quality in implementation. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh is required to make maximum use of the financial assistance available under the Scheme. Efforts are also needed to improve the quality of the programme by creating facilities for which funds have been released so that the programme is properly institutionalized.

[English]

Package size of Soft Drinks

*399. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:

SHRI JANGBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have changed the package sizes in the recent Draft Notification for soft drink companies without protecting the consumers interest;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the consumers interest?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY):**

(a) to (c) The Ministry has published on 12th March, 1993 a Draft notification proposing to amend certain provisions of the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 for Public comments. In this, the standard pack sizes of soft drinks have among other items also been rationalised in the interest of consumers on the basis of recommendations made by a Standing Expert Committee on Weights & Measures.

Proliferation in pack sizes close to each other is detrimental to the consumers' interest. To eliminate the confusion in the market and to ensure that consumer is charged the right price the Standing Committee has recommended incorporation of pack size of 250 ml, 500 ml, 750 ml, 1 litre, 1.5 litre, 2 litres and multiples of one litre upto 5 litres. This rationalisation of pack sizes has been welcomed by the four major industrial associations and several consumer organisations.

Foodgrains Stocks

*400. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains stocks with the Food Corporation of India as on 1-4-93 and 1-7-93, grain-wise;

(b) the percentage of change in the stocks position as compared to the same dates in 1992;

(c) the estimated value of the stocks with the Food Corporation of India as on 1-7-93;

(d) the outstanding loan payable by the Food Corporation of India as on 1-4-93; and

(e) the additional loans taken during the first quarter and the estimated loan service charges for the year 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP
NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The stock position of foodgrains with FCI as on 1-4-92, 1-4-93, 1-7-92 and 1-7-93 is as under:—

(Figures in Lakh tonnes)

	1-4-92	1-4-93	Percentage
Wheat	13.86	23.04	(+)66
Rice	88.75	99.31	(+)12
Coarsegrains	Neg.
Total*	102.61	122.35	(+) 19

*As per audited accounts

	1-7-92	1-7-93	Percentage
Wheat	31.48	83.69	(+) 166
Rice	73.91	92.73	(+) 25
Coarsegrains	Neg.	0.01	..
Total	105.09	176.43	(+) 68

In addition, the following quantity of wheat was with Punjab and Haryana Government/Agencies (meant for Central Pool):

Quantity—lakh tonnes			
1-4-92	7.51	1-4-93	4.35
1-7-92	33.53	1-7-93	65.19