

times suffer pre-berthing detention even though priority is accorded to them as the demand for fertilizers is seasonal. Recently, vessels carrying DAP and MOP suffered pre-berthing detention at JNPT, Vishakapatnam and Kandla.

(c) and (d) Most of the problems are operational in nature. Ports have taken steps to upgrade facilities for faster discharge and evacuation of cargo. Government has taken a policy decision to permit the captive users to set up their own facilities at the major ports on nomination basis.

Security in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2522. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the most insecure frontiers; and

(b) if so, the precautionary steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Andaman and Nicobar Groups of Islands are very strategically located, as, among others, Major Sea Lanes of Communication pass through their vicinity. An Action plan has been prepared after a strategic analysis of the threat perceptions in the region to safeguard the Islands. Coast Guard developments plans also envisage enhancement of force level and infrastructure and procurement of hard-ware and equipment. The Navy and Coast Guard carry out regular surveillance and petrol.

[Translation]

NAFED

2523. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'NAFED' purchases levied food items in the States and 50 per cent of the amount is borne by the States concerned;

(b) whether loss in such a deal is borne by Centre and State Governments respectively;

(c) whether NAFED does not purchase levied food items in the event of showing result indecline in stock of foodgrains of that State;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make amendments in this policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SING YADAV) : (a) and (b) The NAFED has informed that it is not purchasing levied food items in the States.

(c) to (e) At present there is no proposal to make any amendments in this policy.

[English]

Lifting of Ban from Book

2524. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban on Salman Rushdie's book 'The Satanic Verses';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to imposition and relaxation/withdrawal of such bans against writers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government's decisions on imposition of ban is taken on the objective assessment of books in question.

Purlia Arms Drop Case

2525. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Kingdom had prior knowledge of Purlia arms drop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) The Government is aware of the revelations made by Mr. Peter Bleasby an accused in the Purlia Arms Drop Case, in this regard.

(b) and (c) The matter is subjudice.

Raids on Reliance Industries

2526. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: