

(b) Rs 14.36 lakh to Jammu & Kashmir and Rs 2.18 lakh Tamil Nadu were released during 1991-92 for completion of the projects sanctioned earlier. No budget provision was made in 1992-93 for the purpose.

(c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the assistance given by the Centre to Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu and whether any other State has also sent requests to the Central Government for providing assistance? In view of these requests, how much assistance has been given to the States? What steps does the Government propose to take to set up hatcheries for promoting prawn farming?

[English]

SHRIS KRISHNA KUMAR Assistance for fresh water seed production, under the National Seed Programme has been given by the Central Government to 14 States which are basically inland fishery States. They include Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, etc. I do not want to read the entire list.

As far as the brackish water fisheries are concerned, assistance has been given by the Central Government through the brackish water fish development agencies. Thirty-four such agencies had been set up in the country. Also a World Bank is being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

As regards shrimp seed, about which the hon. Member has mentioned, 22 hatcheries, nine Government sector hatcheries, three public sector hatcheries, and 10 private sector hatcheries have been set up in different States.

[Translation]

SHRI DILLEPBHAI SANGHANI Mr

Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the proposals for setting up fish farms/hatcheries were sent to the Centre by the State Government and what were the nature of their demands.

[English]

SHRIS KRISHNA KUMAR Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, some of the centrally sponsored schemes were eliminated from the Central list of such and transferred to the State Government as per the report of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri J. S. Bajaj, Secretary, Planning Commission. In this move three centrally sponsored schemes in the fisheries sector including this particular programme to which the question refers to had been transferred in 1989-90 though the report was given in 1985. Where the schemes were sanctioned earlier and some money was due, only the balance of the funds are provided in the central Plan now. The schemes are being implemented by the State Governments.

Bogus Ration Cards

*766 SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the serious problem of bogus ration cards in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the problem has been studied in depth by the Union Government for proper diagnosis and remedial action, and

(d) if so, the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The Government is aware of the problem of bogus ration cards/units in circulation in the public Distribution System (pds). While the Central Government is responsible for making bulk allocation of PDS commodities to the States/UTs, the State Governments are responsible for actual implementation of the PDS. All decisions relating to operational matters are taken by State Governments/UT Administrations. State Government Officers undertake regular checks/visits, inspection and also surprise checks/visit to fair price shops to prevent malpractices in the distribution of PDS, the State Government/UT Administrations have reported that more than 9 million bogus ration cards have been eliminated since September, 1991. The Central Government has been emphasising the need to take up weeding out of bogus ration cards on a regular basis by all State Governments/UT Administrations.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. I would like to bring to the notice of the august House and to the Hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that in my opinion 30 per cent of the foodgrains subsidy goes away due to malpractices. Again and again, for the last two years I have been trying to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. Today I have got a real opportunity.

Sir, I had already spoken on this subject during the Budget discussion. Sir, the hon. Minister has said that nine million bogus ration cards have been eliminated. Not only there are bogus ration cards but there are many aother things also. The labourers, work for six months and then go for harvesting. During the remaining six months also, their ration cards are also utilised. Naturally they are turned out to be bogus cards. There are many other ways in which the

unutilised cards are being misutilised. This is a very important question. The hon. Ministers should look into very seriously.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how many bogus cards in Goa for the last two or three years have been detected. Secondly, are the Vigilance Committees, which are formed or to be formed, in operation? The Vigilance Committees are important and they should be panchayat-wise. The leader of that particular Panchayat should be taken into confidence. May I know from the hon. Minister whether these Vigilance Committees are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): The question of bogus cards is a very serious issue. But the issue of ration card is the main responsibility of the State Government. Again and again, the Central Government is advising the State Governments that they have to make a serious drive to eliminate the bogus cards. There are mainly two types of bogus cards. First is existence of non-existing units in the otherwise valid cards. That is one of major items. The other is bogus cards in the name of fictitious persons. The Central Government with the cooperation of all the State Governments is making serious efforts to find out a large number of bogus cards.

Regarding the other thing, we have not yet received a detailed report from Goa.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: The hon. Minister has not replied to my question. I am asking particularly of Goa.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not expected to have these details. It is the responsibility of the State Government. You can understand it.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: The matter is very very serious. If you appoint a Cell and inspect Goa, which I know well, it will be an eye opener for the whole of India

to show how the malpractices are going on everywhere. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says that he is going to request the State Government to do it. Please come out with a question.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: This cannot be left alone to the State Government. The Central Government has to investigate the matter independently by themselves. The Central Government will recover thousands of times more money than what is spent for investigation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government takes keen interest in this matter and appoint a Cell.

MR. SPEAKER: This is his second supplementary. You can reply straightway.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: We can find out bogus cards only by way of door to door verification. The Central Government will certainly advise to all the State Governments to make serious efforts to find out a large number of bogus. I will convey them the concern expressed by the hon. Members of this House.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I am certain that no one in the House remembers, not even the Minister when the rationing system was originally introduced. Its origins are lost in the mist of time and the result is that in most places that I know of, the ration cards are not being updated. It is not only a question of having bogus cards or cards being issued in the name of fictitious persons but the cards not being updated periodically. For example, other documents have got a prescribed life. The ration card as such has no prescribed life, as far as I know. The result is that in some States the ration cards are as old as 15 years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has sent out any guidelines to the State Governments that the ration cards should be periodically - say every five years or ten years re-issued on the basis of a fresh enumeration and a fresh survey.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: The issue of ration cards is State responsibility. I agree with you that in many States they have not updated this list. So, we will certainly request the State Governments to make serious efforts to update this list of ration cards.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: The problem of ration cards is a very serious one. I was referring to the State of Assam. The margin of profit given to the fair price shop holder is very little. Whenever any fair price shop holder is asked how do they manage, their reply is that the Department of Supply of the Government give them scope to have bogus ration cards so that they can earn something. Every fair price shop holder is having not less than 100 bogus ration cards and this is done in collaboration with the Government officers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that this is being done in collaboration with the administration and whether the Government is going to take any action or not.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, there are complaints that there is some kind of collaboration with officials and F.P.S. owners in certain areas. But we cannot have sweeping remarks on that. But certainly this aspect will also be discussed by us with the State Governments. We are now making more elaborate arrangements to find out about this aspect of bogus ration cards.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, yesterday in zero hour also I raised this issue about refusal of issuance of ration cards to the linguistic minorities settled in Delhi. When they go for taking ration cards, the authorities insist on the production of certificates from the landlords and naturally the landlords refuse to give such certificate to them as they do not accept the tenancy. Therefore, these people are facing a lot of difficulties in getting ration cards. Without ration cards they cannot get the LPG connections also.

Therefore, I felt that if a certificate is issued by

the employer or by the Government department where these people are working or by the elected representatives, such certificates should be accepted by considering their applications with regard to issuance of ration cards. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to issue suitable guidelines for the issue of ration cards to the linguistic minorities living in Delhi. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: He has just appealed. He has not asked for anything.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, whether he will issue instructions or not?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it is a matter concerning all southern States. It is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, the eligibility condition for issuing ration cards in each State is decided by the state Government or the Union Territory. But even then we will request the Union Territory of Delhi to examine this case also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly the problem of bogus ration cards has become a serious one but I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that responsibility for making rationed items available to the genuine ration card holders rests with the Government. Is the hon. Minister aware that during the last 3 months 300 PDS shops have been closed down in Delhi alone. Newspapers daily report about the hardships being faced by thousands of citizens of Delhi. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what alternative arrangements have been made to make available ration to the poor.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: So far nobody has

brought this matter to my notice. We will examine it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARACHAND KHANDELWAL: Reply has not come on such a serious issue. The Central Government's seat is in Delhi and Delhi is directly administered by the Centre. All the newspapers are giving such reports in as many as 5 columns. The hon. Minister is saying that he is not aware of the closing down of 300 PDS shops and nor he is aware of the plight of thousands of people of Delhi. It is not clear how is he in the dark.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the problem of issuance of fresh ration cards, I would like to submit to the Government that in January, 1990 we decided to issue ration cards to all the residents of Jhuggi jhowpris who apply for the same by 15th March 1990. My colleague rightly stated that people in Delhi are facing great difficulty in getting ration cards issued especially those who have come from Bihar and remote of Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is regarding bogus ration cards.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There is not much of a difference between the issue of bogus and genuine ration cards. The Government has a responsibility to detect and cancel bogus ration cards and also to issue ration cards to genuine persons. Is the Government prepared to categorically announce that ration cards to all the poor in Delhi will be issued?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, I share the concern expressed by hon. Member about genuine people not getting the ration cards. But the difficulty is issue of ration cards is a State subject. We can only advise the State Governments to verify all the complaints. But I assure you that I will request all the State Governments, especially

Delhi Administration to verify these compliants
There are complinats about genuine people not
getting ration cards If the compliants are
genuine we will try to find out a solution

[*Translation*]

SHRIMADANLALKHURANA Mr Speaker
Sir the issue of bogus ration cards is being
debate upon in the House Is it a fact that though
the population of Delhi as per 1991 census is
around 92 00 000 but ration card had been issued
our more than 1 20 crore units? If so whether
these bogus ration cards will be cancelled by
launcing a special compaign? What measures
the Government propose to take to remove
difficulties being faced by the people living in
jhuggi jhompnis and migrants from South India
in procuring ration cards?

SHRI A K ANTONY The Government will
make a special study about Delhi (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[*English*]

Analytical Study of Accidents

*761 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will
the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether any analytical/scientific study
has been made by the Research Designs and
Standards Organisation or by any Railway
experts regarding the causes of the rise in train
accidents

(b) if so the outcome of the study and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent accidents
in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K
JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) A number of studies have been
undertaken by the RDSO and the Railways
Analysis of causes of train accidents is a
continuous process By the gradual
implementation of the recommendations of these
studeis the number of accidents have come
down from 717 in 1985-86 to 524 in 1992-93 i.e
by 27 per cent

Some of the steps taken to avoid accidents
are as under

- (i) Induction of technical devices to aid the
human element
- (ii) Continuing emphasis on renewal and
rehabilitation of overaged assets
particularly o track bridges and rolling
stock
- (iii) Improvement in quality of out-turn from
the workshops
- (iv) Intensive inspections of telecom gears
maintanance depots of coaches wagons
and locomotives
- (v) Monitoring the performance of the staff
of the critical safety categories as
drivers gurads station masters etc
- (vi) Intensive training including
psychological checks of staff in
operational categories
- (vii) Surprise checks against carriage of
inflammable/explosive material in
passenger trains
- (viii) Provision of whistle boards speed
breakers and road signs at the
approaches of unmanned level
crossings and improving visibility for
road users and train drivers