

(English]

National Policy on Women

221. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

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

- (a) the Government have any proposal to formulate a National Policy on Women;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out.

(c) A series of regional/State level consultations are being held across the country to obtain specific recommendations of State Governments, State Commissions for Women, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, Women's organisations, academicians and experts on the proposed Policy.

Oil Spill

222. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Coast Guard ship on pollution Control Mission has located scattered oil spill on sea from the Madras coast during November, 1995;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the damage caused thereby; and
(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such pollution in the sea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An oil slick was noticed during routine surveillance by the Coast Guard of the Madras coast on 13th November, 1995. The area of the spill was 4 miles by 3 miles and about 1.5 miles south east of Elliot Beach at Madras. As reported by the Coast Guard, this oil slick is due to Bilge discharge oil by a ship transiting off Madras. Pollution response team from Madras was deployed to detect the source and neutralise the slick immediately. Dispersants were also spread from CG Dornier to neutralise the slick. Coast Guard ship Avviyyar with Pollution response equipments and scientists of Central Electro Chemical Research Institute, (CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, sailed from Madras on 14th November, 1995 to collect data. Residual slick neutralisation and clean up was also taken up.

Shortage of Wheat

223. SHRI RAM BADAN :

SHRI N.J. RATHVA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during rainy season there was an acute shortage of foodgrains in the Godowns of the Food Corporation of India in various States particularly in the Tribal Areas of Gujarat;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the rate at which it was supplied by the Union Government to those States ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) There was no shortage of foodgrains particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat during the rainy season. However, there may be shortage of foodgrains in certain pockets on certain occasions and the same are met by internal movement of foodgrains within the State or by movement from surplus State. Against monthly allocation of 109.50 thousand tonnes the average monthly offtake of 42 thousand tonnes the average monthly movement of foodgrains to Gujarat has been 171.20 thousand tonnes during the period June 95 to Oct. 95.

(c) Food Corporation of India is releasing foodgrains i.e. wheat and rice to various State Govts. at the Central Issue Prices fixed by the Govt. of India from time to time and the current Central Issue Prices under P.D.S. and R.P.D.S. effective from 1.2.1994 are as under :

(Rate : Rs./Per Qtl.)

	Rice			Wheat	Coarse-grains
	Common	Fine	Superfine		
P.D.S.	537/-	617/-	648/-	402/-	199/-
R.P.D.S.	487/-	567/-	598/-	352/-	149/-

Development of Grassland

224. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any specific project for the development of grassland in Bihar to lessen the pressure on forests and other pasturages in the State;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests operates a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects (AOFFP) designed to address the problems of fuelwood and fodder shortages in identified fuelwood deficit districts in the country. It is