

matters relating to the distribution of commodities to the consumers within their State/UT. The Central Government has taken a number of measures to ensure that the items issued to the States/UTs for the PDS are of good quality. All necessary quality control measures are being implemented by the concerned central agencies. Central Government has also allowed the State Governments/UTs and their nominees to check the quality of food grain in every lot before they accept the same. State Governments have been given the right to reject lots which are not conforming to the prescribed standards.

The Central Government has advised the State Governments to introduce Door Step Delivery of PDS commodities to the Fair Price Shops in the areas covered under Revamped PDS and to constitute Fair Price Shop Vigilance Committees of the consumers to supervise the distribution so that good quality foodgrains to consumers is ensured. Complaints in respect of inferior quality of foodgrains made available to the Fair Shops or sold by Fair Price Shops are dealt with at the district/sub-divisional level administrations for speedy and effective redressal of grievances. However, in an operation of such a vast magnitude such as PDS involving more than four lakhs Fair Price Shops in the country. A few short-comings here and there cannot be ruled out. The Central Government does not maintain the details of specific cases relating to malpractices at Fair Price Shop level, as the powers to enforce the provisions of Essential Commodities Act have been delegated to the State Governments.

Spreading of Deserts

280. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) the total area in hectares declared as desert-affected in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any effective scheme to check spreading of desert in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the expenditure estimated to be incurred on implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

P.G.Ts in Kendriya Vidyalayas

281. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some PGTs of Kendriya Vidyalayas posted in Delhi have been sacked in April, 1995 on the ground that they had written direct to the Prime Minister

inviting his attention to the alleged widespread administrative and financial corruption in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan during 1991-94; asking for an impartial and high level inquiry to ascertain the degree of ruin that had since been wrought;

(b) if so, the details therefore;

(c) whether the present chairman of Kendriya Vidyalayas had been requested to review such cases; and

(d) if so, the result/progress of the said review process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) It is not true that some PGTs have been sacked by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for writing to Prime Minister. After following the procedure prescribed for disciplinary cases, the KVS imposed the penalty of compulsory retirement on one of the PGTs in Delhi in April, 1995 for charges involving financial irregularities and other acts of mis-conduct.

(c) and (d) As per the procedure, the employees of KVS are entitled to prefer an appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Authority to the Appellate Authority. As per information furnished by the KVS, the employee concerned did not prefer any such appeal to the Appellate Authority within the time limit prescribed.

Pooyamkutty Power Project

282. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question No. 2762 given on 22nd August, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the Pooyamkutty Power Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the Government have ever sent any team to Kerala to make an indepth study about the disastrous consequence on the environment if the project is cleared; and

(e) if so, the findings of the team thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c), Even though, the environmental clearance for 240 MW Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project, Kerala was accorded in June, 1985, the matter regarding diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A Multi-disciplinary Team constituted by the Ministry visited the area to examine the related environmental and ecological aspects of the project. The Team expressed its apprehensions about the likely adverse impacts on the environment and ecology.

The findings of the Team would need to be considered before taking a final decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Primary Schools

283. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

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

(a) whether primary Schools are proposed to be opened in all the revenue villages particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar by the end of the present century; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI) : (a) and (b) Opening of primary schools is within the domain of the State Governments.

[English]

Property Hired By F.C.I.

284. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private buildings hired by his Ministry;

(b) whether a number of letters have been received about getting those premises vacated on the expiry of lease-deed; for not enhancing the rent agreed upon initially and after the construction of Government buildings;

(c) if so, the action taken on such letters;

(d) the number of buildings those have been constructed by his Ministry and the reasons for not vacating the hired buildings; and

(e) the steps taken to vacate the hired buildings upon completion of lease-deed and to increase the rent where asked for?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected.

[Translation]

Submerging of Agricultural Land

285. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated area of agricultural land submerging due to severe floods in the country recently;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment in this regard;

(c) if so, the area of agricultural land become barren in a year due to flood and the percentage of farmers who suffered losses; and

(d) the details of measures taken by the Government to control floods and to save the agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) and (b) On the basis of reports received from the State Governments, about 40 lakh hecs. of cropped area have been affected due to recent floods in the country.

(c) According to preliminary estimates, no agricultural land has become completely barren due to the floods. The farmers who suffered losses is estimated to be about 2-3 percent.

(d) The Measures taken by the Government to control floods include construction of resevoirs and embankments, drainage improvement and watershed management.

[English]

Allocation of Rice to Andhra Pradesh

286. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rice supplied to Andhra Pradesh from the Central Pool for distribution under the Public Distribution System and Revamped Public Distribution System during 1995;

(b) whether any priority was given to the State of Andhra Pradesh in view of the devastating floods;

(c) if so, the quantity demanded and supplied to the State Government; and

(d) how much will be met by the Union-Government during 1996?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Andhra Pradesh has been allotted 26.00 lakh tonnes of rice from the Central Pool during 1995 for Public Distribution System (PDS) including Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). A quantity of 6.53 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, had been projected for distribution in RPDS areas. A quantity of 4.39 lakh tonnes of rice has been supplied to Andhra Pradesh from January, 95 to September, 95 for RPDS.

(b) and (c) The State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has requested for additional allocation of 2.00 (two) lakh MT of rice for flood relief. Out of this, one Lakh MT has already been allotted for November, 95, in addition to their normal quota. Based on the offtake trend, another additional allocation of one lakh MT will be considered.

(d) The allotment of rice and wheat, including additional adhoc allocations and advance allocations for buffer stockings, are made to various States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh on a month-to-month bases, taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States and UTs, offtake trends, market availability and other related factors.