

Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities and Modernisation of Madarsa Education were launched during 1993-94.

(b) Under the above mentioned schemes, no grants have yet been released to Government of Bihar for want of suitable proposals from them.

Wheat Production

291. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the falling Wheat output in North India during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether agricultural experts from India and foreign countries are examining the causes of stagnation in the Wheat production;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for Wheat output decline in North India; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of Wheat in the North India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) During the last few years the wheat output in North India is not falling. In fact during the year 1994-95 it has reached a record level of 65.47 million tonnes with major contribution coming from Northern India.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) In order to increase the production and productivity of wheat, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat) is being implemented in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J & K, Punjab, Rajasthan Northern and Uttar Pradesh (Western). In other States this aspect is being taken care of under ICDP-Rice and ICDP-Coarse Cereals Programme where assistance are provided to the crops being grown in a 'system' under cropping system approach. In addition to this, a Central Sector Wheat Minikit Demonstration Programme is also being implemented in wheat growing States for popularising newly released varieties.

Industrial Status to Agriculture

292. DR. (SMT.) K.S. SOUNDARAM :
SHRI CHEEDI PASWAN :
SHRI KUNJEE LAL :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant the status of an industry to the agriculture.

(b) If so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to benefit the farmers;

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard and the progress made so far;

(d) whether the Ceiling Act will apply on the agriculture work being done in industrial establishment area which is more than the prescribed limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution envisages granting of status of an industry to agriculture.

(b) and (c) The Agriculture Policy Resolution envisages development of effective systems in agriculture like infrastructural development, value addition, favourable terms of trade etc. Benefits as exist in industry are proposed to be given to agriculture. However, care would be taken to ensure that agriculturists are not subjected to the regulatory and tax collection machinery of the Government. Moreover, it is envisaged that farmer will be exempted from payments of capital gains tax on compulsory acquisition of agricultural land within prescribed municipal limits.

(d) and (e) In case any industrial enterprise holds the land as proprietor, such holdings come under ceiling laws. On the other hand, if such industrial enterprise holds the land as lessee, such holding does not come under the purview of land ceiling laws. However, it is true that some of the industrial enterprises, both in public and private sector have not brought into use the entire land held by them as owner or as lessee as such extra lands are kept for future expansion. During such interim period, lands not utilised for industrial purposes might have been utilised temporarily for production of agricultural crops. It is expected that all such land through expansion of such industries, will gradually be utilised for the purpose it was acquired. There is also legal provision that additional land if not required by the industry may be voluntarily surrendered to the Government and alternatively the Government can also ask the lessee to utilise the land within the specified period failing which the Government can take back the extra land allotted to any lessee.

[Translation]

National Games

293. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided that next National Games are proposed to be held in the State of Manipur; and

(b) if so, the programme chalked out for making them successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) No, Sir. The next National Games 1996 are being held in the State of Karnataka.

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Voluntary Organisations

294. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) the number of Non-Government Voluntary Organisations which were paid grants during the last three financial years;

(b) the total amount disbursed as grants to such organisations during the above period;

(c) the number of these organisations from whom utilisation certificates (duly audited) have not yet been received by the Government;

(d) whether many of these voluntary organisations have become non-existent after receiving the grants;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Department has provided financial assistance of approximately Rs. 90.47 crores to 4145 Voluntary organisations during the last three years in the following major sectors as :

Sl. No.	Name of Sector	Amount (in crores)
1.	Elementary Education	56.16
2.	Secondary Education	5.26
3.	Adult Education (Literacy)	21.00
4.	Development of Language	8.00
5.	Book Promotion	0.05
		(approx.) 90.47

(c) to (g) Schemes generally stipulate pre-section scrutiny of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). There are inbuilt mechanisms for appraisals of proposals from various agencies prior to sanction and subsequent monitoring. Besides, there is a provision for inspection by Central and State agencies and utilisation certificate for earlier grant is insisted upon before release of fresh grants; whenever the performance of the NGO is found not satisfactory, the financial assistance is discontinued. Information on the exact number of the organisations from whom utilisation certificates are pending is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Distribution of Milk Powder

295. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to distribute Milk Powder in the rural areas by procuring it from the foreign countries at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the names of the States in which the Government are contemplating to distribute the Milk Powder; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) to (c) Government are not contemplating to import milk Powder, Government have liberalised the import of Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) by bringing it under Open General licence and by abolishing the import duty on it.

[English]

Doctors under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

296. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI ASHTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent judgement of Supreme Court bringing Doctors under the Purview of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the ruling made by the Supreme Court in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the impact of judgement on the medical profession and common people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) to (d) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, services of any description including medical services if rendered/availed for any consideration are covered under the Act. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its recent judgement have upheld the provisions of the Act.

Forest Fire in Uttarakhand

297. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state that :

(a) the loss due to fire in 931 sq. Kms area of forests of Uttarakhand; and

(b) the precautionary measures being taken to avoid such out-break of fire in future?