

to 'factory farming' for raising chickens for the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) chain of restaurants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN: (a) No Sir, as KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN (KFC) was given permission only for establishment of restaurants.

(b) Does not arise.

Drinking Water problem in Bihar

1188. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several villages in Bihar have no access to safe drinking water ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ; and

(c) the remedial action taken and the time by which all villages in Bihar are likely to be provided with safe drinking water facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) . As on 1.4.1995, there were 21542 not covered habitations in Bihar.

(c) Central Government provides financial assistance to States to cover all the not covered habitations. The State Govts. are also to provide matching funds under the State Sector MNP. The target is to cover all uncovered habitation by 15.8.1997.

Urea Scarcity

1189. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of smuggling, black-marketing and artificial scarcity of urea in Uttar Pradesh have come to the notice of the government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the Urea Scarcity ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) . The Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that following cases of black marketing were registered under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 and Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 in the State during the last two years :

Year	No. of F.I.Rs registered	Number of persons send of jail
1994-95	42	42
95-96	21	06

(upto January 96)

During 1995-96 (upto December' 995) 14.3 MTs of fertilizers were seized at Sonauli (District Maharajganj) on Indo-Nepal Border in the course of preventive inspection.

(d) During Rabi 1995-96 (upto 29.2.96), 245.30 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of Urea was made available to the State. Urea sales during the same period were 19.64 LMTs. The overall availability has been adequate to meet the demand for urea. The State had a estimated closing stock of 4.67 LMTs at the end of February 96.

Four Lanning of National Highway-9

1190. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the National Highway-9 into four lanes;

(b) if so, the details of sections likely to be widened into four lanes;

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose ; and

(d) the time by which the four lanning work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY: (a) to (d) . The work of four-lanning of Km. 252/0 to km. 265/0 of Nandigama-Vijayawada Section of National Highway No. 9 in Andhara Pradesh is proposed to be taken up with Asian Development Bank loan assistance. This work is a part of the project of improvement of Nandigama-Vijayawada Section of National Highway No. 9 which includes strengthening of the existing two lanes from km. 217/0 to Km. 265/0, which is approved for Rs. 67.32 crores. The project is completed in 42 months from commencement.

Support Prices

1191. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the support prices for rabi and kharif crops have been revised recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the increase in minimum support prices of these crops was determined by the Government recently ; and

(d) the details of the recommendations of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for effecting the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) and (b) . The minimum support prices of kharif and rabi crops of 1995-96 have been fixed by the Government. A statement showing the minimum support prices of various crops for 1995-96 season is enclosed.

(c) and (d) . The minimum support prices of major crops for the year 1995-96 have been fixed by the Government after taking into consideration the recommendations made by the CACP, views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries, etc. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP takes into account a number of important factors like cost of production changes in input prices, input/output put price parity trends in market prices, parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers (Terms of Trade), etc

STATEMENT

*Minimum Support Prices
(According to Crop Year)*

(Rs. Per Quintal)			
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1995-96
1	2	3	4
1.	Paddy	Common	360.00
		Fine	375.00
		Super Fine	395.00
2.	Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra & Ragi)	FAQ	300.00
3.	Maize	FAQ	310.00
4.	Wheat	FAQ	380.00
5.	Barley	FAQ	295.00
6.	Gram	FAQ	700.00
7.	Arhar	FAQ	800.00
8.	Moong	FAQ	800.00
9.	Urad	FAQ	800.00
10.	Sugarcane*	FAQ	42.50
11.	Cotton	F-414/H-777	1150.00
		H-4	1350.00
12.	Groundnut-in-shell	FAQ	900.00
13.	Jute	TD-5 Grade	490.00
14.	Repeseed/Mustard	FAQ	860.00
15.	Sunflower Seed	FAQ	950.00
16.	Soyabean	Black	600.00
		Yellow	680.00
17.	Safflower	FAQ	800.00
18.	Tobacco (Black Soil)	VFC F-2	19.00
	(Rs. per kg.) (Light Soil)	L--2 Grade	21.50
19.	Copra (Milling) (Calendar year)	FAQ	2500.00
	ball	FAQ	2725.00
20.	Sesamum	FAQ	850.00
21.	Nigerseed	FAQ	700.00

* Statutory Minimum Price for a basic recover of 8.5%

[Translation]

Drinking Water Scheme for Gujarat

1192. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL :
SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have submitted drinking water Schemes for fluoride affected villages;

(b) if so, when the scheme was received by the Union Government and action taken thereon so far;

(c) the number of villages affected with deficiency of fluoride in Gujarat;

(d) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to Gujarat state during the last three years in this regard;

(e) whether the clearance of the scheme after approval has been communicated to the Gujarat Government;

(f) if so, when and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(g) the time by which the clearance is likely to be given and communicated to the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c), (f) and (g) . Four projects involving 186 schemes to benefit 549 habitations at an estimated cost of Rs. 4543.46 lakh were received in April, 1995. The Central Government has informed GWS & S Board in December, 1995 that these schemes cannot be considered till such time the Regional/individual schemes already approved at a cost of Rs. 6672.36 lakh for 589 habitations affected with excess fluoride/fluorosis are taken up for implementation.

(c) As on 1.4.94 there were 2413 habitations affected with excess fluoride in Gujarat.

(d) The Central Government had released assistance of Rs. 2742.53 lakh. However, the State Government has not utilised any amount so far.

Indo-Nepal Relations

1193. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to strengthen further the bilateral relations with Nepal during the last two years and the details of the achievements made thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (i) All efforts were made to consolidate and expand ties with Nepal, a country with which India has traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations during the past two years.