

(b) the budgetary provisions and actual amount spent on each scheme during each of the last three years, state-wise; and

(c) the method of monitoring and the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incidence of contract

1468. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidence of cataract is increasing in the country despite the claims of reduction during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to start efforts on warfooting to contain the disease by involving voluntary organisations; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan and the role of the voluntary organisations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No recent survey has been undertaken.

(b) The Government has already started in 1994, World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project in some major States, namely U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, which accounts for 2/3rd total prevalence of cataract in India. These States would perform over 11 million sight restoration surgeries during the 7 year project. In addition pilot projects in Karnataka and J&K have also been launched. Pattern of assistance has been revised in all States. Distt. Blindness Control Societies alongwith other voluntary organisations have been involved in this project.

(c) Action Plan to contain incidence of cataract include:

- (i) Strengthening service delivery.
- (ii) Developing human resources for eye care.
- (iii) Promoting outreach activities and public awareness, and
- (iv) Developing institutional capacity.

Role envisaged for voluntary organisations include :

- (a) Service delivery through camps;
- (b) Screening and outreach activities;
- (c) Expansion of service delivery by selected non-profit institutions in underserved areas.

Forest Cover

1469. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of environment and forests be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the forest cover in the country at the beginning of 1980, State-wise;

(b) the position at the end of 1995;

(c) the reasons for reduction in the coverage, if any; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) On the basis of the State of Forest Reports 1987 and 1993 published by the Forest Survey of India for the assessment period 1981-83 and 1989-91 respectively, the State-wise actual Forest cover is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The main reason for the reduction in the coverage can be attributed to wide gap in demand and supply of fuelwood, fodder and small timber, damage due to sniffting cultivation, forest fires and grazing and also due to diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

(d) The various steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover are :

- (i) Guidelines have been issued to all the State/ Union Territories Government to involve the village community in the protection and regeneration of forest through a mechanism of usufruct sharing and benefit distribution.
- (ii) Steps have been undertaken to substantially increase the coverage through afforestation/ tree planting activities during the eighth five year plan.
- (iii) All the State/U.T. Governments have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Policy Advisory Groups on wood substitution and fuelwood conservation.
- (iv) Financial assistance is being provided to the States/U.Ts. for rehabilitation of degraded forest through involvement of tribals and rural poor and also for control of forest fires.
- (v) Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to prevent the diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government.

STATEMENT

Comparative situation of forest cover 1983 and 1991 assessment

Area in Sq.Km.

S.No.	State/UTs.	1987 assessment	1993 assessment
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50,194	47,256
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60,500	68,661
3.	Assam	26,386	24,508
4.	Bihar	28,748	26,587
5.	Goa (including Daman & Diu)	1,285	1,250
6.	Gujarat	13,570	12,044
7.	Haryana	644	518
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12,882	12,502
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,830	20,443
10.	Karnataka	32,264	32,343
11.	Kerala	10,402	10,336
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,27,749	1,35,396
13.	Maharashtra	47,416	43,859
14.	Manipur	17,679	17,621
15.	Meghalaya	16,511	15,769
16.	Mizoram	19,092	18,697
17.	Nagaland	14,351	14,348
18.	Orissa	53,163	47,145
19.	Punjab	766	1,342
20.	Rajasthan	12,478	13,099
21.	Sikkim	2,839	3,119
22.	Tamilnadu	18,380	17,726
23.	Tripura	5,743	5,538
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31,443	33,961
25.	West Bengal	8,811	8,186
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	7,603	7,624
27.	Chandigarh	2	5
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	237	206
29.	Delhi	15	22
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	8	-
Total		642,041	640,107

Fair Price Shops

1470. SHRI TARA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any compulsion to purchase the wheat, rice and flour with sugar from the Fair Price Shops in Delhi particularly from the Fair Price Shop No. 6867 in Circle No. 40, the Trans-Yamuna area,

(b) whether the Government have issued some directions to the Fair Price Shops in this regard, and

(c) if not, the reasons for compelling the consumers for taking other items with the sugar?

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) The operational responsibility of implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) including distribution of PDS commodities through Fair Price Shops rest with State Govts./UT administration. Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi have reported that there is no compulsion on consumer to buy wheat, rice and flour with sugar from shop No. 6867 in Circle No. 40 the area of Trans-Yamuna

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sugar Mills

1471. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether hurdles are being created in setting up of another sugar mills in the nearby area of Nawabganj Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to solve the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has granted two Letters of Intent for establishment of new sugar factories at Nawabganj & Meeraganj in District Bareilly respectively

Consignments of Rice

1472. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice consignments received by the Food Corporation of India from Punjab to the port towns of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh during the current season;

(b) the per ton prices fixed and actually charged by the FCI on the above consignments

(c) whether the Government have charged less price than the price fixed;