

26. M. B. Road
 27. Vasant Vihar, CPWD Colony
 28. Lodhi Road Complex
 29. Timarpur
 30. General Pool residential Quarters, Mayapuri

Funds to Kerala under Rural Development Programme

*134. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Kerala during the last two years under the rural development programmes, programme-wise;

(b) whether the funds are being utilized properly; and

(c) if not, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAM-BHAI H. PATEL): (a) The funds allocated to Kerala during 1989-90 and 1990-91 under the major rural development programmes are as under:—

	<i>(Rs. in Lakhs)</i>	
	1989-90	1990-91
(i) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	6569.99	6396.19
(ii) Integrated Rural Development Programme	1871.12	1871.12
(iii) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment	19.94	19.94
(iv) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas.	14.14	10.10
(v) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	1076.00	1076.00
(vi) Central Rural Sanitation Programme	..	25.00

(b) No complaint about improper utilisation of funds in Kerala has been received in this Ministry.

(c) Question does not arise.

Fertilizer Subsidy

*135. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fertilizer subsidy given during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, separately;

(b) whether the subsidy is being allowed during the current financial year also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and how the affected farmers are proposed to be compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The amount of subsidy given both on indigenous and imported fertilizers, during the last three years is as follows:

	<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>
1988-89	3,200.70
1989-90	4,542.10
1990 91	4,389 06

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

Expenditure on Various expeditions to Antarctica

*136. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred till date on the various expeditions to Antarctica;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the demand being raised in certain international fora for banning of mining in Antarctica for the next 50 years; and

(c) how the Government propose to make good the expenditure incurred on the expeditions in case the ban comes into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Ten Indian scientific expeditions to Antarctica have been launched so far and the total expenditure incurred is Rs. 69.85 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties including India have now agreed to prohibit mineral resource activities in Antarctica for a period of 50 years, with a provision for review at the end of that period.

(c) The main thrust of the Indian Antarctic programme is scientific, aimed at contributing to international endeavour in enlightening our understanding of the various critical processes that determine the environment and climate of our planet, but can be best studied from this unique vantage observatory, as they are especially well projected on this continental polar region. The prohibition on mining in Antarctica does not apply to scientific activities and would, therefore, not affect the Indian Antarctic Programme.

[*Trans'ation*]

Amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955

*137. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Artificial Colour/Flavours

*138 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the artificial colours/flavours manufacturing industry is a very highly profit-oriented industry;

(b) whether the Government propose to have a cost-audit done of all these artificial colours and flavours units in consumer interest in view of the fast growing use of these flavours and colours which do not have any food value at all;

(c) if not, the reasons for not undertaking this urgently needed step; and

(d) the number of firms in the organised and other sectors which are manufacturing these products?

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Such units are mostly small scale units whose profitability has not been assessed by the Government.

(b) and (c) The Government does not propose at this stage to have a cost audit of this industry as it is not a priority industry. However, if some relevant facts come to the notice of the Government then Government would be prepared to consider the matter further.

(d) There are nine firms in the organised sector engaged in the manufacture of flavours and colours. The exact number of small scale units manufacturing these products is not readily available as small scale units are registered with the State Directorate of Industries.