

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Government had received proposal from the Government of Kerala for transfer of land (58.85 acres in Kooveri village and 50 acres in Peringam village) in Kannur District of Kerala for establishment of RTC and RAF Bn. for CRPF.

(b) However, the land offered by the State Government is not found adequate and suitable in the absence of necessary infrastructural facilities. The State Government has been requested to offer some other land at suitable location, close to any District Headquarters.

Timber Extraction

5947. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of timber extraction permitted from the Forests of Karnataka per annum;

(b) the number of permits issued for such extraction so far;

(c) the number of sandalwood industries benefited therefrom so far;

(d) the quantity of timber extracted and allowed to be transhiped out of the State during the last three years upto 31 March, 1997;

(e) whether any firm policy is being adopted for re-forestation in that areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Slow Poisoning at the Hearth

5948. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Slow Poisoning at the hearth" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated March 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to countenance this situation particularly in slums keeping in view the economic, social and environmental considerations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item captioned "Slow Poisoning at the Hearth" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated March 28, 1997 has dealt with indoor air pollution due to cooking using low grade fuel which is affecting the health of people particularly women of the weaker sections of the society. The findings are based on the study made by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI)

(c) The nature and magnitude of indoor air pollution depends upon the nature and quality of fuel used, design of Chulahs, ventilation system, etc. the study done by the TERI is of limited nature relying on a sample size. Since no definite conclusions have been drawn from the study, TERI has advocated detailed scientific study of the fuel supply and demand situation in slum areas.

(d) The steps taken to make general awareness about indoor air pollution include the following :

1. The Government is implementing two Central sector schemes, namely, National Programme of Improved Chulha and National Project on Biogas Development which caters to family-size biogas plants. The Government is also providing subsidy and other incentives for promotion of these devices in the rural and slum areas with the objective to reduce air pollution.

2. General environmental awareness campaigns have been launched.

Accelerated Promotions in Delhi Police

5949. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there any policy directions for Delhi Police to grant accelerated promotions to its personnel who are involved in apprehending the wanted offenders in the armed encounters;

(b) if so, the specific guidelines alongwith the number of Delhi Police personnel who received accelerated promotions under these guidelines during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of armed encounters during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have come across reports alleging level of accelerated promotion and incentives to be the prompting cause for some ambitious police personnel to indulge in to the fake the armed encounters; and

(e) if so, the measures taken to curb such disadvantages of the Promotion Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and

(b) Rule 19 (ii) of Delhi Police (Promotion and Confirmation Rules, 1980) has a provision for grant of one rank promotion to encourage outstanding sportsmen, marksmen, officers who have shown exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty. The number of officers/men who were granted one rank promotion under the said rule during the last 3 years i.e. 1994, 1995 and 1996 is as under :

Rank	1994	1995	1996
Inspector to Assistant Commissioner of Police	-	4	-
Sub-Inspector to Inspector	8	3	1
Assistant Sub-Inspector to Sub-Inspector	3	4	1
Head Constable to Assistant Sub-Inspector	16	13	20
Constable to Head Constable	29	42	28

(c) The requisite information is given as under :

Year	Number of encounters	Persons	
		Killed	Injured
1994	3	4	3
1995	10	6	5
1996	6	2	-

(d) & (e) There have been some press reports to this effect. The accelerated promotion requires the prior approval of the Lt. Governor of Delhi and is granted only in deserving cases.

Agro-based Industries

5950. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted on the status of the Indian agriculture and food processing industry;

(b) if so, whether Food Industry has stressed that large investments to the tune of Rs.140000 crores by 2005, in technologies, skills and capital equipment, to transform the Indian food industry will be required;

(c) whether the Government have seen the study report entitled "Food, agriculture, integrated development and action";

(d) if so, whether the Government have examined the report; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to the suggestions made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (e) The Confederation of Indian Industry and McKinsey & Co. have recently conducted a study of the prospects for the Indian food industry. The Report has not yet been published.

Import of Drugs

5951. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian drug manufacturing companies issued licences for the import of drugs during the financial years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the names of the drugs for which import licences were issued;

(b) the number of proposals of drug manufacturing companies of India seeking permission for import of drugs lying pending with the Government;

(c) the names of those companies alongwith the names of the drugs proposed to be imported;

(d) whether there is any impediment in issuing licences of import of drugs to those drug companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the time by which these drug companies will be given import licences; and

(g) the steps contemplated by the Government to increase indigenous production and to reduce the import of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) During 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 cases of thirty eight, thirty seven and twenty Indian drug manufacturing companies, respectively were recommended for issue of import licences for Pen.G and Rifa - S.

(b) to (f) Only two proposals from M/s. Wockhardt Ltd. and M/s. Jagsonpal Ltd. for import of Oxytetracycline Hcl are awaiting clearance due to non-enclosure of certificate from indigenous manufacturers regarding their inability to supply.

(g) Delicensing, progressive reduction in custom duty of imported raw-material, providing higher rate of return while fixing price for drugs manufactured from basic stage are some of the steps taken by the Government to increase indigenous production.