

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any new formula has been adopted to determine poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The studies on poverty are generally made from the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure. The Planning Commission uses the quinquennial NSS data on consumer expenditure to estimate the incidence of poverty. The incidence of poverty for the two latest periods following the recently adopted official methodology, which is based on the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, are estimated as 38.68% in 1987-88 and 35.97% in 1993-94.

(c) and (d) The Poverty line is defined in terms of monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.49.09 in rural areas and Rs.56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. These rural and urban poverty lines of 1973-74 are disaggregated into state-specific poverty lines using the inter-state price differential of the year. These state-specific rural poverty lines are updated by the Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers and urban poverty lines by the Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers.

Production of Betel Leaves

5969. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a programme for boosting up the production and improving the quality of betel leaves during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries to whom betel leaves are being exported?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Government of India have decided that the programme for betelvine development will be taken up by State Governments from 1997-98.

(c) The Major countries to whom betel leaves are

exported are Pakistan, Oman, USSR, UAE, Baharain, Kenya, UK, Canada, Kuwait, Yaman Arab Republic, Saudi Arabia, German Federal Republic, Brazil, etc.

Development of Himalayan Area

5970. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any National scheme for the balanced and integrated development of the Himalayan area to fulfil the basic requirements of the persons living there without disturbing the environment and forests of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to formulate a National Scheme for the development of Himalayan area. The Planning Commission had set up an expert Group to evolve a National Policy for Integrated Development of Himalayas. A Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Expert Group on National Policy for Integrated Development in the Himalayas has been constituted by the Planning Commission. As per the decisions of the meeting of this Committee various Sub-Committees have been set up to draw action plans. In addition, the Planning Commission provides additional funds on 90% grants and 10% loan basis to partially hill states in Himalayas (UP, West Bengal and Assam), for environmentally sound development under an ongoing scheme - the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP).

Misuse of ISI Mark

5971. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is gross misuse of ISI mark by both the public and private sector companies;

(b) if so, the name of the companies and their products found misusing ISI mark;

(c) the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of consumers and to make the officials responsible and accountable to check illegalities in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Some cases of misuse of BIS Standard Mark (ISI Mark) by private sector companies have come to the notice of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). No case of misuse pertaining to public sector companies has come to notice.

(b) and (c) Names of the companies against which BIS initiated action for misuse of Standard Mark during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the products manufactured by these companies are given in the enclosed statement. In this regard, 26 prosecution cases have been launched by BIS during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(d) The BIS has set up an Enforcement Directorate which is responsible for collection of information relating to misuse of BIS Standard Mark and to take legal action against erring manufacturers in accordance with the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986. Nodal Officers for the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986 have been nominated in each branch office of the BIS.

BIS conducts awareness programmes for traders and consumers from time to time. It also carries out market surveys with a view to check fraudulent use of the ISI mark.

A Standing Committee on Enforcement drawing, among others, members from consumer organizations provides guidance to the Bureau regarding enforcement and prevention of misuse of ISI mark.

Statement

Names of the companies found misusing ISI Mark during 1995-96 and 1996-97

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Product
1	2	3
1995-96		
1.	Kamakshi Enterprises, Vijawada.	Stable Bleaching
2.	Banarsi Das & Co. Delhi.	Powder
3.	Mesh Industries, Delhi	M.S. Tubes
4.	Krishna Water Meter, Delhi	Gas Stoves
5.	Ghazipur Dairy Farm Area, Delhi	Cement

1	2	3
6.	Daulat Ram Gupta, Samalakha	Cement
7.	Praxiz Engineer Pvt. Ltd., Saharanpur	Electric Iron & Mixer.
8.	Ashok Lamps/Stellar Lamps Bangalore	G.L. Lamps.
9.	Rekha Cement & Chemicals, Gulbarga	Cement.
10.	Traders of M S Tubes in Pune	M S Pipes.
11.	Chandrakant & Co., Bombay	Fire Extinguisher.
12.	Aims Food Products, Bombay	Corn Flakes.
13.	Classic Ispat Pvt. Ltd., Derabasi	M S Tubes.
14.	Kamal Paints, Calcutta	Paints & mixer.
1996-97		
15.	Balaji Enterprises, Hyderabad	Diesel
16.	Citi Air-conditioning Inds., Delhi	Room Air Conditioners.
17.	Bishan Kumar Goel, Delhi	Cement
18.	Dharamaraj Yadav, Delhi	GLS Lamps.
19.	Shivhans Electric Co., Delhi	GLS Lamps.
20.	Anchor Electricals Pvt. Ltd., United Marketing, Valsad.	MCBs
21.	Aditya Cement Co., Rajkot	Cement
22.	Switchcraft Industries, Valsad	MCBs
23.	Prince Pipe & Fittings Pvt. Ltd. Silvasa.	UPVC Pipes
24.	Akshay Pumps & Engg. Pvt. Ltd Ahmedabad.	Submersible/ Monoset Pumps
25.	Narayana Industries Bangalore.	Submersible Pumps.
26.	Thapar Concast Ltd., Ludhiana	M S Tubes
27.	Atul Engineering Enterprises Ludhiana	M S Tubes
28.	Himalaya Industries, Agra.	SCI Soil Pipes and Fittings
29.	Himalaya Cement, Shikohabad.	Cement

1	2	3
30.	Vishal Pipe Udyog Ltd., Sikandrabad.	M S Tubes
31.	Agarwal Tubes Pvt. Ltd., Muzaffarnagar.	M S Tubes
32.	Singhal Pesticides Industries, Muzaffarnagar.	Endosulfan 35% EC
33.	Shivalik Tubes Pvt. Ltd., Muzaffarnagar.	M S Tubes
34.	Deluxe Cement Mills P. Ltd., Meerut.	Cement
35.	B M Cement P Ltd., Meerut	Cement
36.	S D Cements P. Ltd., Meerut	Cement.
37.	Shree Cement Indus. Shikohabad.	Cement.
38.	M R Lamps, Meerut.	GLS Lamps.
39.	Gulab Cements P Ltd., Meerut.	Cement.
40.	R.C. Rubber Product, Calcutta.	Rubber, Canvas Boots, Miners
41.	Yonex (Electro) Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.	Water Filter Candles.

Voluntary Organisations for Blinds

5972. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of blind persons in each state;

(b) the details of the Central Schools for the blinds;

(c) the percentage of aid being given to the societies running schools for the mentally retarded/handicapped children;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to fully compensate the societies running such schools;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the latest Sample

Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, there are about 4.01 million persons in the country suffering from visual disability. This survey did not indicate state-wise distribution.

(b) There is no Central School for the blind.

(c) to (f) Upto 90% of the expenditure incurred by Non-Governmental Organisations working for the welfare of the disabled on approved items under the schemes of (i) Assistance to organisations for the Disabled, and (ii) Assistance to Organisations for Establishment of the Development of Special Schools for handicapped children is met out of Central Government grant-in-aid. Under the scheme of Assistance to Organisations for manpower development in the field of mental retardation and Cerebral Palsy, even 100% expenditure incurred by Non-Governmental Organisations is met out of the Central Government grant-in-aid.

[Translation]

Looting of Tourists

5973. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incident of looting a tourist bus of foreign tourists and injuring them of the Boddh Gaya Dobhi Road in Bihar by some armed dacoits;

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which these tourists belonged;

(c) the total luggage and cash looted from these tourists;

(d) the condition of the injured tourists in the incident; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to arrest the dacoits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Supply of Fertilizers

5974. SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: