

sections would be considered as per traffic requirements in the coming years.

[Translation]

Loss due to Locusts

1030. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of crops by locusts in Delhi and adjoining States during the last two months;

(b) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to compensate the farmers for the loss suffered by them; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to protect the crop from locusts in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, no locust has been reported in Delhi and adjoining States during the last two months. Hence, the question of compensation to farmers for crop loss does not arise.

(c) Following are the measures taken by the Govt. to protect the crops from locusts in the near future:

- i) Regular surveys in the locust habitats by a network of locust outposts and regional stations of the locust Warning Organisation (LWO) established in the scheduled desert area of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana.
- ii) Strengthening the control capabilities of the Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) with modern plant protection equipments and safe pesticides.
- iii) Impart training to the field functionaries and farmers in locust control operations.

[English]

Public Distribution System

1031. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of Gujarat and Rajasthan States covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints and suggestions from the State Governments in respect of this new Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the quantity of commodities made available to these States for distribution under this system during 1993-94 and so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The population living in the areas covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in Gujarat and Rajasthan is 86.18 lakhs and 195.74 lakhs as per 1991 Census.

(b) and (c) The implementation of the RPDS is being monitored by the Central Government in terms of the

points of action agreed to by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. Targets under the various points of action were set by the State Government/UT Administrations themselves. No complaints have been received from any State Government regarding implementation of the RPDS. Suggestions of the State Governments are discussed periodically with them in regional meetings and in the meetings of the Advisory Council on PDS. Central Government has increased the additional allocation of foodgrains specifically earmarked for RPDS areas by 1.2 million tonnes per annum during 1994-95 in order to enable the concerned State Governments to make adequate allocations to RPDS areas.

(d) Allocation to regions, including RPDS areas within a State, is made by the State Government themselves. The offtake of wheat and rice at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices for RPDS areas to Gujarat and Rajasthan during 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto October, 1994) are as follows:—

	(in '000 Tonnes)			
	1993-94		1994-95 (upto October, 94)	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
Gujarat	130.08	181.66	68.09	86.28
Rajasthan	11.95	483.88	9.33	226.54

[Translation]

Popularisation of Hindi

1032. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to popularise Hindi in non-Hindi speaking regions during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of the amount spent for this purpose during each of the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) To popularise Hindi in non-Hindi speaking regions, the following schemes are being implemented by the Government of India:—

Appointment and Training of Hindi Teachers in non-Hindi Speaking States/Union Territories: The scheme was introduced in the Second Five Year Plan and will continue during the Eighth Plan period. Under this scheme, 100% financial assistance is given for salary of Hindi teachers and establishment/strengthening of training colleges for one Plan period only.

Teaching of Hindi through Correspondence Courses: The Central Hindi Directorate is running a scheme of