

(d) Under the pre-revised Scheme Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools were eligible to be covered under the CLASS Scheme. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of CLASS being implemented from 1993-94, Senior Secondary Schools (having classes XI and XII) are only eligible to be covered under the Scheme. Schools are selected by the State Government/UTs/Organisations concerned for participation in the Scheme.

As per the Guidelines issued by the Government of India, infrastructure such as a pukka room with electricity and other fittings are required to be made in the schools to be covered under the scheme initially by the State Government concerned.

Environmental Clearance

3132. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance for industrial projects from the State and Central authorities takes considerable time anywhere between 12 to 24 months;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an inordinate delay in this regard;

(c) the details of steps/measures taken or proposed to simplify the procedure to cut down the delays in environmental clearance at State and Central levels;

(d) whether the Government are considering a proposal for one window clearance for industrial projects at the State or Central level in a bid to simplify and streamline the procedure and details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government have finalised clearcut guidelines to which new industrial units would have to adhere to and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). A maximum time of 90 days has been stipulated for projects which require environmental clearance from the Central Government. For site specific projects, the decision regarding suitability of the site is required to be taken within 30 days. As regards the clearance from the State Authorities, the time frame varies from State to State.

Delay in clearance mainly takes place due to non-submission of requisite information and relevant details by the project authorities.

(c) and (d). The following measures have been taken to simplify procedure and cut down the delays:

- Environmental guidelines for different sectors have been prepared;
- Expert Committees to appraise projects of different sectors normally meet once in a month;
- To expedite environmental appraisal site visits are also made;

- Training programmes on EIA are arranged by involving professional institutes to enlighten the project authorities about providing the necessary information required for appraising the project;

No proposal for single window clearance is under consideration. This was attempted for forestry and environmental clearances, but was found to be more cumbersome and time-consuming as it inhibited simultaneous and parallel consideration in the various wings. Hence it has been discontinued.

Environmental appraisal procedure varies from State to State.

(e) A notification on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has already been brought out last year explaining the environmental appraisal procedure and requirements for the industrial units.

Prevention of Improper use of Emblem

3133. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether currency garlands are in violation of the Prevention of insults to the National Honour Act or the Prevention of Improper use of Emblem and Names Act;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action for disrespect arising of the depiction of the National Flag or of important buildings and National Emblem like the Ashoka Pillar so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pepper

3134. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of pepper in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of this production exported;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the price of pepper in the domestic market is increasing;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of pepper and curb the rising price of pepper in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) The total production of pepper in the country during 1991-92 to 1993-94 is given below :

Year	Production in M.T.
1991-92	52,010
1992-93	55,000
1993-94	44,000

(b) and (c). The percentage of production exported and amount of foreign exchange earned during last three years are as follows :

Year	Percentage of production exported	Value of export (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	39.48	74.32
1992-93	43.24	78.31
1993-94	106.02	179.67

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The low production of pepper in the major producing centres and growing international demand for pepper.

(f) For increasing production and productivity of pepper and thereby curbing the prices, under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices following measures are being implemented during 8th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 63.30 crores.

1. Production and distribution of rooted pepper cuttings.
2. Rehabilitation of old pepper gardens.
3. Distribution of input kits.
4. Plant protection measures against Quick Wilt disease.
5. Eradication of 'Little leave' disease.
6. Establishment of demonstration plots.
7. Demonstration of High Production Technology.
8. Area expansion.

Betel Leaves

3135. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States in the country producing Betel Leaves;

(b) the estimated annual production of Betel Leaf in the country; and

(c) the estimated annual consumption of Betel Leaves in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) to (c). The major Betel Leaves producing States are West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Pondicherry.

Official estimates on production and consumption of Betel Leaf in the country are not available. However, bulk of the production of Betel Leaves is consumed within the country.

Decline in Prices of Spices

3136. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of spices whose prices have fallen during the last three years;

(b) the total loss suffered by the growers due to the fall in prices; and

(c) the steps taken to help the growers, who suffered such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Chillies (Dry), turmeric, clove, cardamom and cuminseeds witnessed fall in the wholesale prices during the last three years.

(b) No estimate has been made on losses suffered by the growers due to fall in the market prices of these commodities.

(c) The Government has Market Intervention Scheme in the event of fall in prices to protect the interest of the growers on specific request of the State Government.

Import of Edible Oil

3137. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the total quantity of edible oils expected to be imported under the Open General Licence during the current financial year and the countries from which these are expected to be imported indicating the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : The actual quantity of edible oil likely to be imported during a particular year depends on a number of factors viz., indigenous production, international and domestic market prices, demand from States/UTs etc. It is therefore, not possible to make an advance estimate about the total quantity of imports of edible oils under OGL.