

WOMEN COMMISSIONS

1299. **Shri Dau Dayal Joshi** : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disabled women representatives in the Women Commissions and their sub-committees; and

(b) the number of such representatives in delegation from India for International Women Conference held in Beijing?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) (Kumari Vimla Verma) : (a) and (b) The National Commission for Women does not have any member on the Commission or on its committees with known disability. The members are appointed on the basis of their eligibility under the Sec. 3 (2) of the NCW Act, 1990. No member of the official Indian delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women had known disability.

PASHMINA PRODUCTION

1300. **Shri A. Indrakaran Reddy** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Pashmina produced during the last two years;

(b) whether due to lower procurement price offered by State Government, the producers are selling product to the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid diversification of this valuable product to other countries?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government concerned and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

PRODUCTION OF STRAWBERRIES

1301. **Shrimati Vasundhara Raje** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to increase production of the strawberries for the export purpose;

(b) if so, the steps taken and schemes drawn up by the Government in this direction;

(c) the details of the steps taken to implement these schemes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of Strawberries?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India under 'Integrated Development of Fruits' is giving assistance for production of quality planting materials for fruit crops including strawberries. The Government of India through National Horticulture Board is providing soft loan assistance for strengthening post harvest infrastructure and marketing facilities required for various perishable horticultural produce under which integrated projects on strawberries have also been considered. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is providing assistance on freight subsidy. The Government is also facilitating bulk import of planting material of latest evolved varieties having export potential. Assistance is also available for use of drip irrigation and plastic mulch in strawberry cultivation.

SUGAR QUOTA FOR FESTIVALS

1302. **Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal** : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government release additional quota of Sugar for distribution under the Public Distribution System every year on the eve of Diwali festival; and

(b) if so, the quantity of such quota released for Chandigarh on each of the last three occasions?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) and (b) The Government allots about one lakh tonnes of levy sugar per annum as festival quota to all States/Union Territories (in addition to their monthly levy sugar quota) in the month/months of their choice for distribution under the Public Distribution System. The yearly festival quota of Chandigarh is 112 MTs which is being allocated in the months of September and October every year during the last three years.

REVAMPED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1303. **Shri Kunjee Lal** : Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) the total population of Rajasthan covered under the Revamped New Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints and suggestions in respect of Revamped New Public Distribution System during 1995;

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

(d) the details of the items made available to State Government for distribution during 1993-94 and 1994-95 so far, quantity-wise?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System) (Shri Venod Sharma) : (a) The total estimated population (based on 1991 census) of Rajasthan covered under Revamped Public Distribution System is 2,55,01,078.

(b) and (c) The operational responsibility of implementing the public Distribution system (PDS) vests with the State Governments/UTs and all related matters like distribution within the State/UT, entitlement criteria, opening of fair price shops, issue of ration cards etc. are dealt by them. The Central Government reviews the progress of PDS with State Governments/UTs in regional review meetings and the suggestions of the State Government/UTs are also discussed. The Central Government had advised the States/UTs to set up

district wise control rooms where the consumers could report non-availability of PDS commodities and malpractices by fair price shop owners and unscrupulous traders. The Central Government has delegated powers under Essential Commodities Act and Control Orders issued there under to States/UTs for dealing with matters of malpractices, diversions etc. in PDS. Complaints/suggestions relating to PDS at State level are generally dealt by the district/local administrations for effective and speedy redressal of the grievances. The Central Government does not maintain the details of these grievances.

(d) The quantity-wise details of the items allocated to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution through Public Distribution System from 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given as under :—

(Figures in 000 Tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Sugar	Ed.oil	Kerosene	Soft Coke
1993-94	9368.60	12218.70	4299.15	44.91	8577.11	1966.30
1994-95	10587.03	13107.53	4108.18	137.92	8788.03	1037.02

CONSTRUCTION OF GODOWNS

1304. Shri Thayil John : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position in regard to construction of the Mararikulam Food Corporation of India's godown in Kerala;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) to (c) Mararikulam Centre in Kerala has been included under the Annual Plan Proposal of Food Corporation of India for the year 1996-97 for the construction of 10,000 tonnes capacity godown.

[Translation]

WAH AND ANGAD IRRIGATION PROJECTS

1305. Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are contemplating to approve and Sangad Irrigation Projects in Madhya Pradesh pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which these are likely to be approved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajest Pilot) : (a) to (c) The proposal for Wah Irrigation Project in district Vidisha was rejected under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 30.6.1988. The proposal has been rejected on the grounds of inadequate rehabilitation programme and adverse environmental impacts of the project. Subsequently on request of the State Government to reconsider the proposal, certain essential details have been sought from the State government on 20.2.95, which are still awaited. In the absence of complete details, the proposal cannot be reconsidered for decision. In respect of Sangad Irrigation Project, formal proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has not been received from the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh so far.

PALM OIL

1306. Shrimati Bhāvna Chikhilia : Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the places allotted for lifting the Palm oil in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the transport charges of Palm Oil, per metric tonne from the lifting site;

(c) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government, requesting to increase the transport charges;