

[English]

DECLARATION OF COW AS NATIONAL ANIMAL

1436. **Dr. Vasant Niwruoti Pawar** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for declaring the Cow as National Animal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) to (c) The Government have received suggestions to declare cow, bullocks and bulls as the national animals from time to time. However, the tiger has been declared as the national animal in 1973. No change in this is under consideration.

REVAMPED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1437. **Shri Mohan Rawale** :

Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria :

Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh :

Shri Pankaj Chowdhary :

Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) the name of States and the number of blocks in each State which are covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS);

(b) the salient features of the Revamped Public Distribution System;

(c) the extent to which the Revamped Public Distribution System has proved useful for Weaker Sections of the society;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the scope of Revamped Public Distribution System to other areas in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this is likely to be extend;

(f) whether the Government propose to start the modified Revamped Public Distribution System in additional Development Blocks of the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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) A Statement

showing the names of States and the number of blocks covered under RPDS is enclosed.

(b) to (g) After discussion on at the 13th meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held in August, 1991, the Government initiated measures to improve the reach of the PDS in remote, hilly, inaccessible, tribal and rural areas and decided to revamp the PDS. In consultation with the State Governments and UT Administrations, the blocks covered by various areas specific programmes such as Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) where a substantial segment of the rural poor population live were identified for the Revamped Public Distribution System. The State Governments and UT Administrations were requested to take action on various points and monitor the progress of implementation which are :

(i) Opening additional fair price shops in areas hitherto unserved or underserved;

(ii) Issue additional ration cards to population not so far covered;

(iii) Create/hire storage capacity for stocking of foodgrains in interior areas for distribution;

(iv) Make suitable arrangements for door steps delivery of PDS items to FPS in interior areas;

(v) Constitute Vigilance Committees for monitoring the supply and availability of commodities to consumers;

(vi) Distribute additional items of mass consumption through PDS outlets.

The scheme of Revamped PDS was launched by the Prime Minister as on 1.1.1992 at Barmer in Rajasthan in about 1700 blocks. The Government decided to issue foodgrains at specially subsidised prices from 1.6.92 in all RPDS blocks. Earlier the specially subsidised price was only applicable to ITDP blocks. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains distributed through RPDS was Rs. 50.00 per quintal lower than the CIP for normal PDS and the States were requested that the end retail prices of foodgrains should not be more than 25 paise per kg over and above CIP. 3.2 million tonnes of additional quantity of foodgrains per annum has been earmarked for distribution exclusively in RPDS areas which was over and above the allocations reportedly being made to these areas by the State Government.

It has been decided to extend the Revamped PDS to all blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) numbering 2446, from October, 1995.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the Number of
Blocks Covered Under R.P.D.S.

| No. | State/UT | No. of Blocks Covered under EAS/RPDS |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | A.P. | 155 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 56 |
| 3. | Assam | 142 |
| 4. | Bihar | 266 |
| 5. | Goa | — |
| 6. | Gujarat | 131 |
| 7. | Haryana | 44 |
| 8. | H.P. | 19 |
| 9. | J & K | 80 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 119 |
| 11. | Kerala | 21 |
| 12. | M.P. | 297 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 171 |
| 14. | Manipur | 22 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 32 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 20 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 28 |
| 18. | Orissa | 175 |
| 19. | Punjab | — |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 172 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|--------------|------|
| 22. | T.N. | 89 |
| 23. | Tripura | 18 |
| 24. | U.P. | 248 |
| 25. | W.B. | 128 |
| 26. | A & N Is. | 2 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | — |
| 28. | D & N Haveli | 1 |
| 29. | D & Diu | 1 |
| 30. | Delhi | — |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 5 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | — |
| Total | | 2446 |

RPDS : Revamped Public Distribution System

EAS : Employment Assurance Scheme

[Translation]

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES IN U.P.

1438. **Dr. Sakshiji** : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in Uttar Pradesh to increase the agricultural production during 1994-95;

(b) the details of the achievements made under these Schemes during the above period; and

(c) the amount spent on these schemes so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) : (a) to (c) The details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95, the achievements made during 1994-95 and the amount spent on these schemes are given in the enclosed.