

[English]

#### Tiger Census Operation in Sunderbans

2366. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the Tiger Census Operation in the Sunderbans, West Bengal;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to secure the safety of the teams assigned the task of counting down the Tigers in the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Tiger Census Operation in the region is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS : (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The State Government of West Bengal has reported that nearly 70% of the area has been covered for collection of plaster casts of the pug marks.

(b) and (c). Adequate measures were taken for the safety of the teams assigned the job of collecting plaster casts of the pugmarks. Each party consisted of five members, out of which, two were gunmen. Quick setting plaster of paris was used to minimise the time spent on mud flats.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It has been reported that the tiger census in the region is likely to be completed by January, 1996.

[Translation]

#### Printed Prices of Fertilizer Bags

2367. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fertilizer distributors are supplying fertilizers to the farmers by charging arbitrary prices ;

(b) whether the prices are not printed on the bags of fertilizers;

(c) whether prices are printed only on the bags containing low-prices materials which are not related to the farmers ;

(d) whether the Government propose to get the prices printed on the bags containing fertilizers so as to check arbitrariness in charging prices ;

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No such complaints have been received in this Department.

(b) to (f). Urea is the only fertiliser under statutory price control. Its sale to the farmers is regulated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) and the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO). As regards decontrolled fertilisers, their demand, availability and the price is being determined by the market forces. The printing of maximum retail prices on bags/containers of all fertilisers (except Urea) is mandatory as per provisions of FCO. It is also mandatory for every retail dealer to display in his place of business a list of prices or rates of fertilisers. Any violation is subject to penal action under FCO/ECA 1995 whose implementation is primarily with the State Governments.

[English]

#### Universities in Maharashtra

2368. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) purpose-wise details of the amount provided to the universities in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to open any Central university in State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The details of the grants provided to the universities in Maharashtra during the last 3 years are as follows :

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs)	
	Plan	Non-Plan
1992-93	525.71	122.11
1993-94	709.00	87.97
1994-95	963.54	104.20

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, states that in future the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of facilities rather than on expansion. The Programme of Action, 1992 also states that given the severe constraint on resources, there should be a restraint on setting up of more Central Universities.

#### Issue Price of Foodgrains

2369. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received from State Governments that the subsidy for rice and wheat be