

(b) No large scale survey has been conducted on tobacco use as the outcome can be gauged from available data.

(c) and (d). There is a proposal to bring a comprehensive legislation to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products including ban on use/ consumption of tobacco in public places, inter alia providing for a ban on tobacco advertisements. Mean-while, the Government has initiated several measures like building awareness on the ill-effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places besides imposing a statutory warning on cigarette packs that "Smoking is injurious to Health".

Night Post Office

6. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning at night in Delhi as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more of these post offices in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the locations identified so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 13 Night Post Offices functioning in Delhi, at present.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[English]

Dairy Potential

7. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to tap the immense dairy potential of the country; and

(b) when the country shall become number one dairying nation of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Besides programmes run by the State Government, the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme for non-operation flood, hilly and backward area is being implemented during the 8th Plan period with 100 percent central assistance. There are also other Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Government to enhance milk production, such as schemes for animal disease control, fodder development and production of breeding bulls and semen.

(b) India is the second largest milk producer in the world after the USA, and if existing rates growth in production continue at the same level in both countries, India may emerge as the number one dairying nation by the turn of the century.

Normalcy in J and K

8. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restore peace and normalcy in J and K;

(b) if so, the details thereof and various steps taken in this direction; and

(c) the decision taken with regard to the election for the J and K Assembly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). The aim of the Government is to ensure that complete peace, normalcy and the democratic and representative institutions are restored in the State of Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest. The Government has been keeping a close watch on the situation, and a number of steps and initiatives have been taken to create conditions conducive to this objective. These include: sustained and targetted operations to contain the activities of the militants and reduce the fear of the gun; stepping up the pace of development and economic activities in the State to create additional employment opportunities for the youth and motivating the people to move towards their normal life and activities; reactivation of the civil administration and restoring its morale for normal activities; efforts to strengthen the confidence of the people in and enlisting their cooperation with the administration; reactivation of the political elements and forces in the State; and, encouragement to the people to strengthen the peace process through other confidence building measures, including increased transparency, release of detainees, etc. Special efforts have also been made to encourage the misguided youth who taken to the gun to come into the mainstream, including announcement of a policy for surrender of militants and dialogue, etc.

Government has also been holding consultations with leaders of the various political parties and groups in the State with the aim of encouraging them to activate the political process and isolate the elements favouring violence.

The various measures taken by the Government have resulted in perceptible and significant improvement in the situation and the overall atmosphere, and in a visible change in the mood of the people.

All this enabled the peaceful and successful conduct of Parliamentary elections in the State in May, 1996, which marks a major breakthrough in the efforts to restore peace and normalcy in the State.

The Government now intends to hold elections to the State Assembly at the earliest so that a representative Government can be set up in the State. The specific dates would be fixed in consultation with the Election Commission.

Mega Cities

9. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cities in the country which fulfill the criteria and are to be declared as Mega cities;

(b) whether there is any move to declare more cities as Mega city; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER KUMAR ALAGH) : (a) The Government of India had not declared any city as Mega city in the country nor had it developed criteria for declaring any city as mega city. However, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructural Development of Mega Cities introduced from 1993-94, the cities of Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore had been included.

(b) and (c). The reconstituted Planning Commission will examine questions of urbanization policies in the Ninth Plan,

Kashmiri Migrants

10. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government to send back the Kashmiri migrants to their respective homes;

(b) if so, the time by which all the migrants are likely to be sent back; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for their safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). Sustained efforts

are being made to restore peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir and to create conditions conducive inter alia to return of the migrants to their homes. The Central Government is also in constant touch with the State Government and representatives of the migrants in this regard. Although efforts are on in this direction, the precise date of the return of all the migrants cannot be indicated. All possible measures will be taken for the safety of the migrants, when they return.

DPCO Committee

12. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officers working with the Committee created under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 to look after the Drugs Prices Equalisation Accounts are drawing their salaries from the Consolidated Fund of India;

(b) if so, the expenses incurred on their salaries during the last three year-wise;

(c) if not, the source of expenditure in this regard;

(d) whether the officers not drawing salaries from the Consolidated Fund of India are empowered to issue demand notices; and

(e) if so, the name of the Authority and ranks thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure is being incurred from the accumulations available in the Drugs Prices Equalisation Accounts in terms of Para 17 (2) (b) of the DPCO, 1979 read with relevant provision of DPCO, 1987/1995.

(d) and (e). Exercise of statutory powers is not dependent on the source of emoluments.

Opening of LPG Agencies

13. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand for opening of LPG agencies in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details and numbers thereof alongwith their proposed locations; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?