

	1984-85	1985-86
Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 227.64 lakhs	—
Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 336.00 lakhs	Rs. 173.00 lakhs

On the basis of a supplementary Memorandum presented by the Government of Madhya Pradesh a Central team visited the State in April, 1985 and submitted a report to Govt. The Ministry of Agriculture will be taking suitable decision shortly on the basis

of the recommendations of the High level Committee on Relief.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The progress in providing drinking water all over the country is indicated below :

Sub-Sector	Percentage of population covered as on 31.3.1981	Percentage of population expected to be covered at the end of VI Plan
Urban Water Supply	77%	81%
Rural Water Supply	31%	53.9%
Urban Sanitation	27%	33%
Rural Sanitation	0.5%	0.95%

Official Secret Act

6321. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chairman of the Press Council has suggested repeal of the Official Secrets Act which tended to infringe upon the freedom of the press and was a hangover of colonial administration :

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions and observations of the Chairman of Press Council ;

(c) the contemplation of Government in the matter ; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to amend the Official Secrets Act to make it more liberal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c) : The Press Council of India has forwarded some suggestions for the amendment of the Official Secrets Act. Broadly speaking, they have recommended that the following should be considered as official secrets :

(i) Defence or security of the nation ;

(ii) Foreign relations ;

(iii) Monetary policy, foreign exchange policy, economic plans

and policies, commercial or financial information, where premature disclosure may harm the national interest or provide opportunities for unfair financial gains to private interests ;

- (iv) Information which is (a) likely to be helpful in the commission of offence ; (b) likely to be helpful in facilitating an escape from legal custody or to be prejudicial to prison security ; or (c) likely to impede the prevention or detection of offences or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders ;
- (v) Private information given to the Government in confidence ; and
- (vi) Trade secrets.

The Government has not taken any view on these suggestions yet.

(d) There is at present no proposal to amend the Official Secrets Act to make it more liberal. The Second Press Commission has, however, made certain recommendations in this regard. These recommendations are receiving attention of the Government.

Surprise Checks of Goods by ISI New Delhi

6322. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Standard Institution, New Delhi is supposed to draw four samples each from the factory and the market for surprise check in respect of each of the operative licences ;

(b) if so, the number of such licences tested in surprise check during 1983-84 and 1984-85 separately ;

(c) the arrangements available for testing the items in the laboratories and the annual expenses for such tests in the departmental laboratories and outside laboratories during the last two years separately ;

(d) the circumstances under which tests have to be got done in outside laboratories ; and

(e) the number of samples tested in the departmental labs and outside labs during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The drawal of samples varies from product to product depending upon the quantum of production, continuity of production, nature of the product and availability in the market. In general, attempts are made to draw about four factory and four market samples.

(b) The number of surprise checks carried out on licencees during 1983-84 and 1984-85 were as under :

Period	No. of surprise checks
1983-84	19,564
1984-85	21,438

(c) The arrangements are available in ISI laboratories for testing of most of the products covered under certification. The outside recognised laboratories are used where such facilities are not available or the ISI laboratories are overloaded. The annual testing expenditure for 1983-84 and 1984-85 was as under :

Period	Testing Expenditure (in million of Rupees)	
	ISI Labs.	Outside Labs.
1983-84	5.740	1.906
1984-85	6.667	2.200
	(Estimates)	(Estimates)