

(c) if so, its broad outlines and how long will it take to make a start in the cement export business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Some cement companies are exploring the possibilities of exporting cement to neighbouring countries. However, no plan for the purpose has been worked out by the Government.

Supply of Foodstuffs, Canteen Provisions to Armed Forces

1753. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodstuffs, canteen provisions, milk, etc. supply to the Armed Forces are presently in the hands mainly of private contractors;

(b) whether some agricultural cooperatives and State corporations of Punjab have recently offered to supply the provisions directly, thereby eliminating the need for contractors;

(c) if so, whether the matter has been examined; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. A large number of items of foodstuff are procured from Public Sector Undertakings and Cooperative agencies of the Central and State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Procurement of foodstuff items from Government/Cooperative agencies, to the extent possible, is an integral part of the policy of the Ministry of Defence. However, such procurement may not be made only from one State. All interested Government/Cooperative agencies of the

State and Central Governments have to compete with each other to secure contracts.

Census in Assam

1754. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) likely date of publication of religious and linguistic tables of 1981 census;

(b) the reasons for the delay in publication;

(c) likely date for holding the census in Assam; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). The 1981 Census table on religion based on information on religion of the head of the household collected through the household schedules has already been published in the volume, Census of India, 1981, Series-1 India, Paper 3 of 1984. The language data regarding the language mainly spoken in the household are now under printing for publication. There has been no delay taking into account the huge volume of work involved.

(c) and (d). The 1981 Census could not be conducted in Assam along with other States due to disturbed conditions prevailing in that State then. The question of holding of Census in Assam thereafter has been considered in consultation with the Government of Assam. That Government is currently engaged in the implementation of the accord and is not in a position to provide enumeration agency for the conduct of the Census. As such, it is not possible to hold a census in Assam at this stage..

Recruitment of Ex-servicemen in Delhi Police

1755. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of the HOME AFFAIRS be