

**PDS Scheme;**

- (b) if so, the details of the scheme;
- (c) whether the people living above poverty line including income tax payers are being totally excluded from the purview of the new PDS;
- (d) if so, whether any State has opposed this scheme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) with focus on the poor. Details of the scheme are as under :

(i) All families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) shall be provided with 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central Issue Price.

(ii) Identification of population below poverty line shall be taken up by State Government/UT Administrations on the basis of provisional estimates of below poverty line population worked out by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala.

(iii) The average lifting of foodgrains for the last 10 years by the States is proposed to be confined for the benefit of the population Above the Poverty Line, at present getting the benefit of the P.D.S. The quantity of foodgrains and of this average lifting which is in excess of the requirement for the population Below Poverty Line is proposed to be allocated to States as a transitory allocation at the Central Issue Price.

(iv) The State Governments/UT Administrations will have to ensure fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution to the poor in a transparent and accurate manner.

(v) Specially subsidised foodgrains will be issued also to all beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) at the rate of one kg. per man day.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Use of Hindi**

570. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to

state :

(a) whether the modern gadgets such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. installed in the Ministry in Roman Script are being converted into bilingual ones;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets would be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent percent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The mother board of various computers, electronic typewriters etc. are supplied with bilingual keys. Several software packages, both bilingual and in Hindi exclusively, are also available, thus increasing working in Hindi.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

[English]

**Smuggling of Arms, Explosives and Narcotics**

571. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidence of trafficking in arms, explosives and narcotics along the Pakistani borders and Western Coast have increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with the problem and strengthen the vigilance on the western coast during the last one year;

(d) whether the problem has been discussed with the neighbouring countries; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The smuggling of arms and narcotics has shown a decreasing trend across the Indo-Pak border whereas smuggling of explosives has increased as in 1996, 111 kgs. of RDX was seized compared to 30 kgs. in 1995. On Western Coast also, though one boat with some arms was seized but there are no reports of increasing trend

(c) Following steps have been taken to strengthen the Indo-Pak border and western coast :