

last three years in the Organised Sector has been as under :

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------|
| 1993-94 | - | 47.02 Tonnes |
| 1994-95 | - | 49.40 Tonnes |
| 1995-96 | - | 83.93 Tonnes |

(b) The Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals for the Ninth Five Year Plan period has estimated demand to be as follows

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| 1996-97 | - | 275 MT |
| 1997-98 | - | 303 MT |
| 1998-99 | - | 333 MT |
| 1999-2000 | - | 366 MT |
| 2000-01 | - | 403 MT |
| 2001-02 | - | 443 MT |

(c) Pyrazinamide is under OGL as per the Export and Import Policy. Shortfall if any can be met through imports. However, imports have been negligible and almost the entire demand of this drug is met through indigenous production.

(d) to (f). As per the earlier DPCO the last notified price of Pyrazinamide was Rs. 1679/- per Kg vide notification dated 25.11.93. As per DPCO, 1995 it is outside the purview of price control. Also this drug is delicensed, vide Press Note No. 4 (1994 series) dated 25.10.94 consequent to announcement of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" in September, 1994.

Inclusion of more Castes in OBCs

*275. SHRI A C JOSHI

SHRI DATTA MEGHE

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Cabinet has taken any decision to appoint another Commission for examining the claims of some communities for inclusion in the OBCs list;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a Commission would be set up to consider the requests of other communities for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Mangrove Forests

*276. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the area covered under the mangrove forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for the protection and improvement of the mangrove forests in the country;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to protect and improve the mangrove forests; and

(e) the funds allocated to the States for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As per the State of Forest Report (1995), mangroves cover an area of 4,533 sq kms in the country. The State-wise break-up of mangrove areas is given in Statement-I.

(b) to (d). A centrally sponsored scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves was initiated during 1985-86 and is being continued during VIII Five Year Plan. A national Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs advises the Government on policy guidelines, identification of mangroves for intensive conservation, monitoring, preparation of management action plans and for research activities. Under the scheme 15 mangrove areas have been selected on priority basis for intensive conservation and management purposes. Management action plans have been drawn up for the identified mangrove areas. The activities under the management action plan include survey and demarcation, natural regeneration, afforestation, nursery development, protection measures, education and awareness.

The network of Protected Areas consisting of national parks, sanctuaries and biosphere reserves also includes mangroves within their boundaries depending upon the location.

(e) A Statement showing funds provided to the State Governments during last three years under the centrally sponsored scheme on Conservation and management of Mangroves, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project tiger and Biosphere Reserves is given in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise break-up of Mangrove areas as per the State of Forest Report, 1995

| | | Area (in sq km) |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 383 |
| 2 | Goa | 3 |
| 3 | Gujarat | 689 |
| 4 | Maharashtra | 155 |
| 5 | Orissa | 195 |
| 6 | Tamilnadu | 21 |
| 7 | West Bengal | 2119 |
| 8 | Andaman and Nicobar | 966 |
| 9 | Karnataka | 2 |
| | | 4533 |