

(c) whether the Government intend to import the sugar for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of country from where sugar is likely to be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the festival months of the season, a higher quota of freesale sugar is released as compared to other months of the season. Further, the Government have doubled the annual festival quota allotted out of levy sugar to all the States and Union Territories of the country for the calendar year, 1996.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Movement of Foodgrains**

5425. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release inter-state movement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to abolish octroi to facilitate the movement of foodgrains and compensate the losses suffered by the States;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :  
(a) and (b) As per the policy of the Central Government, the entire country is treated as single food zone for movement of foodgrains. Accordingly, the State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been advised to remove restrictions, if any, on inter- and intra-state movement of foodgrains.

(c) to (e) The system of levy and collection of octroi was reviewed by a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The Committee has opined that octroi cannot be abolished as it is protected by Entry 52 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

#### **Per Capita Food Consumption**

5426. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that food insecurity is building up in the country with per capita food consumption declining from 510 grams per day in 1991 to just 466 grams per day in 1993 and 63% rise in food prices between 1989-90 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the per capita per day food consumption in India in 1994-95, 1995-96 and the likely availability in the current year; and

(c) the steps are being taken to augment per capita food availability ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :  
(a) and (b) No, Sir. Foodgrain production in the country has made spectacular strides over the years; having recorded a sharp rise from 171.04 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 191.10 million tonnes in 1994-95. The per capita availability of foodgrains is provisionally estimated to have recorded a fall from 510 grams per day in 1991 to 464 grams per day in 1993. It is further estimated to have gone upto 471 and 506 grams per day in 1994 and 1995 respectively. The food security should not be seen in terms of per capita availability of foodgrains alone, as per capita availability of the other food items like fruits, vegetables, edible oils, milk, eggs, fish etc. is increasing.

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices of Foodgrains has moved up by 57.4% between the period 1989-90 to 1993-94.

(c) Various steps are being taken to increase the food production/availability in the country. Ongoing crop production oriented programmes on rice, wheat and coarse cereals have been modified and are being implemented to augment production of foodgrains.

#### **Employees Provident Fund**

5427. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Rules, 1952 which were extended to all the educational institutions in the Union Territory, Chandigarh, in 1982 have not been extended and enforced in Government aided schools there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the benefits which are available to the employees in Government aided schools in Chandigarh, under T.V. Scheme are less favourable than the benefits under the EPS; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remove the lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Employees Provident

Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies on its own vigour. All the Establishments including aided educational institutions of Chandigarh employing 20 or more persons are required to deposit provident fund with the EPF authorities. If they default in payment of provident fund, they are liable for legal and penal action as provided under the Act. The EPF Scheme is of compulsory nature. Exemption from the EPF Scheme is generally considered if the employees of the establishments are in receipt of similar/superior PF related benefits. Any application for exemption as and when received from the aided educational institutions of Chandigarh will be processed accordingly.

#### Import of Edible Oil

5428. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of edible oil is being permitted in the recent Budget at a reduced rate of import duty;

(b) if so, whether it lead to steep fall of prices of coconut which is the main stay of economy of Kerala; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take for maintaining the economic price of coconut and coconut oil ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has not been steep fall in the prices of coconut since the Budget for 1996-97 was announced on 25th July, 1996. In fact, the prices of coconut have been showing an upward trend at selected centres in Kerala. The Government has already taken the following steps to maintain the prices of coconut and coconut oil :—

- (i) Coconut oil is not permitted for import under OGL.
- (ii) Use of coconut oil in manufacture of vanaspati is allowed.
- (iii) The Government has also requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to popularise the use of coconut oil as cooking medium in respective States/UTs.
- (iv) Copra is covered under Support-Price Operation.

#### Salaries to Imams and Moujars

5429. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to pay the salaries to Imams and Moujars of Masjids, which are without assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

5430. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA :  
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to each voluntary organisation/institution to check the use of drugs in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government have examined the results thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) List is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (e) The information with regard to drug addicts during the last three years for treatment in the various drug addicts/Counselling Centres in different parts in Uttar Pradesh, financially assisted by this Ministry under the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse prevention are as under :

Year	Drug addicts Registered	Drug addicts Detoxified
1993-94	37,398	14,966
1994-95	40,343	20,145
1995-96	53,442	23,006

The Ministry evaluates the performance of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) before release of instalments of grants-in-aid for the programme.