

voluntary Organisations to impart training in Hindi to the non-Hindi speaking employees of the Central Govt. Apart from this, there is a scheme to grant financial assistance to the non-Hindi speaking states for making arrangements for imparting training in Hindi to their employees.

(b) Govt. has established a Central Institute for the development of Scheduled languages in 1969. Various activities for the propagation and development of scheduled regional languages are being carried out under its aegis. Particularly, preparation of text and instructional material for strengthening the place of regional languages as a medium of education, provision of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and State agencies in the field of regional languages, grant of book writing awards to encourage writing in regional languages; provision of facilities through modern gadgets in the field of learning and teachings etc.

Spice Industry Run by the Prisoners

6053. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the spice industry is being run by the prisoners of the Central Jail, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh and are getting employment in the Central Jail and the State are getting the spices at concessional rates;

(b) the details of irregularities being done in this industry;

(c) whether few days back the rotten chapattis and rice were grinded and mixed with spices in the Central Jail to meet the increased demand for spices a few days back; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) Prisons' being a State subject as per Entry 4 State List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, Prison administration is therefore, governed, by the State Governments as per the various provisions contained in their Jail Manuals. Various prison Industries are being run in the prisons under the supervision of jail authorities of the State Governments. These industries not only provide employment to the prisoners but also make available various kinds of items produced in these industries at concessional

rates to the States. The Central Government does not maintain any data pertaining to irregularities in running of such industries.

Distributorship

6054. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mentioned in the advertisement for the dealership/distributorship that only that person can apply for it whose no near relative is having the dealership/distributorship of any oil company;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to abolish this condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The multiple dealerships norms have been provided in public interest to prevent concentration of more than one dealership/distributorship of petroleum products in one family and to provide competitive services to the customer.

[English]

Issue of Passport/visa

6055. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public is being cheated while issuing passport and visa;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are considering to formulate any action plan to check such cases; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said plan is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Instances of cheating of public by unauthorised agents while obtaining passports and visas have come to notice.

Available information in regard to cases of forgeries in passports/visas detected at major air

checkposts and at land checkpoint at Attari (Amritsar) in the country is given below :

Year	No. of Forgeries in passports	No. of Forgeries in visa	Total
1995	1640	219	1859
1996	1724	168	1892
1997	1774	129	1903

The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, apart from sending advisories to the State Governments in this regard from time to time, the Central Government has also been extending financial support to them under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces for upgrading their policing infrastructure.

[Translation]

Fertilizer and Pesticides rates

6056. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to provide other fertilizers and pesticides at the minimum possible rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) The Price of urea, which is subsidised, is statutorily fixed. The current price of urea is Rs. 3660/- per tonne, which is the same as that prevailing from 21.2.97 to 1.6.98.

Similarly, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are also available to farmers at an indicated price as Government of India subsidises the cost. The indicative prices have not been changed since 1.4.97.

Prices of pesticides are not fixed by the Government.

[English]

Procurement of Wheat in Uttar Pradesh

6057. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is steep decline in the prices of wheat in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the middlemen have procured wheat on a large scale and are selling the same at the Government procurement centres earning a good profit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) On 4th May, 1998, Government of Uttar Pradesh introduced the system of Commission Agents for procurement of wheat during the current Rabi Marketing Season 1998-99, and the rate of commission was fixed at 2% of the Minimum Support Price. Purchases of wheat through these Commission Agents was started, but the system was revoked by a notification dated 9.5.1998. Complaints were received that Commission Agents were paying the farmers in the interior areas rates which were below the MSP and were selling this wheat to the Central Pool at MSP.

(e) After getting complaints of exploitation of farmers by Commission Agents, the State Government revoked the system of Commission Agents in the State.

Petroleum Products Stock

6058. SHRI PRAKASH YASWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of petroleum products reserved for the rainy season during the last year;

(b) whether the stock has also been kept during the current year;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Oil Industry do not reserve stock of petroleum products for the rainy season on all India basis, except for North-East, where the effort is to top up the tankage before the monsoons. However, this being lean period for demand of petroleum products, stocks are built up for meeting the demand in peak period i.e., October to May.