

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 Purchases of wheat through these Commission Agents was started, but the system was revoked by a notification dated 9.5.1998.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.

The stocks of MS/SKO/HSD in the country as on the 1st of May, June and July, 1997 are given below :-

(Figs. in TMT)

	1.5.97	1.6.97	1.7.97
MS	321.7	300.7	277.9
SKO	719.3	667.9	573.3
HSD	1744.3	1576.0	1694.5

(b) and (c) The stock of MS/SKO/HSD as on the 1st of May, June and July, 1998 are given below :

(Figs. in TMT)

	1.5.98	1.6.98	1.7.98
MS	373.6	365.2	391.3
SKO	706.9	566.2	614.2
HSD	2116.2	1934.7	1597.7

(d) Does not arise.

#### Declaration of Assets

6059. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY :  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item under the caption Ministers to declare the Assets published in the *Hindustan* dated March 23, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government had taken the decision that all the Union Minister including their family members would declare their assets;

(c) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision and whether the said decision has been implemented;

(d) if so, the date on which the declaration were made; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Union Minister are likely to declare their assets?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) At a meeting held on 22.3.1998, the Union Cabinet had decided that Members of Union

Council of Ministers should declare their assets and liabilities, including those of the members of their families, to the Prime Minister within the next 90 days for being made public. This decision of the Cabinet was formally conveyed to all Union Ministers by the Cabinet Secretary. The Statement of assets and liabilities has so far been received from 18 Union Ministers.

#### Ban on Movement of Foodgrains

6060. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the restrictions on inter-State movement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) According to the present policy of the Central Government, the entire country is treated as a single food zone for inter-State and intra-State movement of foodgrains (wheat, paddy, levy-free rice, coarsegrains and pulses). On 26.3.93, all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were informed of this national policy of treating the entire country as a single zone. They were requested to ensure that there were no impediments in the movement of foodgrains. They were also advised to remove statutory restrictive provisions which may be impeding the inter-State and intra-State movement of foodgrains by sending formal proposals to Government of India for obtaining prior concurrence under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. In response to this, all the States/UTs except the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal have removed all movement restrictions on foodgrains. These three States have retained certain restrictions on inter-State movement of rice/paddy in order to maximise procurement or to prevent smuggling across the international borders.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Rake Points

6061. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rake points in the country