

(a) the number of times in a year assessment of functioning of Indian Embassies abroad and employees working therein is being made by the Government;

(b) whether the number of complaints had been received from several embassies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government regularly supervises the working of our Missions abroad through administrative circulars, government orders, periodic inspections and audit teams. Senior officials who visit the Missions also examine the functioning of the Missions.

(b) and (c) Some complaints are received from time to time regarding the services being rendered by the Missions. These are examined and prompt corrective action, wherever necessary, is taken.

[English]

Sale of Onion

629. RAO INDERJIT SINGH:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sold onions through mobile vans and at the outlets of the NAFED at concessional rate after hike in prices of onions in the open markets;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for the sale of onions through these outlets;

(c) whether the sale of onions at concessional rate through NAFED and mobile vans were at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg., whereas the same onions were sold through Mother Dairy's Fruit and Vegetable outlets at the rate of Rs. 15/- per kg;

(d) if so, the reasons for the disparity in the selling price of onion;

(e) the agencies through which NAFED procured onions and at what price; and

(f) the profit/loss suffered by NAFED due to sale of onions at concessional rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the direction of the Department of Consumer Affairs of the Government of India, NAFED has distributed onion through public distribution agencies like Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, Delhi Wholesale Consumer Cooperative Store, NCCF and its own outlets from 14.7.1998 at a subsidised rate of Rs. 10/- per Kg. The criterion adopted for distribution was first-cum-first served basis.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Mother Dairy was requested separately by the Delhi Government to sell onion at Rs. 15/- per kg, to supplement the supply of onion in addition to the aforementioned arrangement.

(e) and (f) NAFED has purchased onions in the mandies of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka at the ruling rates prevailing in these mandies. In the above operation from 14.7.1998 to 27.11.1998 a total amount of Rs. 10.32 crores has become reimbursable to NAFED by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India towards difference between procurement price paid by NAFED and sale price charged by NAFED in the form of subsidy.

[Translation]

Conversion of DOT into Corporation

630. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Department of Telecommunications into a corporation;

(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions of the services of the employees working therein would be changed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The proposal to convert the operating arm of Department of Telecommunications (DOT) into a corporation has been under consideration. However, at this stage, the objective to separate the operating arm of DOT from the policy making and licensing functions is proposed to be achieved by setting up a Telecom Services Board to manage the service operations of DOT.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Implementation of Reservation

631. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that reservation for SCs and STs are not being properly implemented in jobs in States as well as in Central Government offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have ever assessed the implementation of reservation in Government jobs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir. However, reservation in State Government offices is outside the purview of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) State-wise details are not maintained.