

(b) and (c) During the current year, there has been one major militancy related incident in Himachal Pradesh. The State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh have deployed security forces on the Doda-Chamba border to conduct anti-militancy operations and to prevent infiltration of militants into Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

Utilisation of Funds

1435. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reply to SQ No. 187 dated 7.6.98 regarding the utilisation of funds has since been collected; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Allocation of funds and their utilisation under Tribal sub-Plan out of State Plan are made by the respective States/UTs. Upto-date information have not been reported by the State Governments and UT Administrations so far.

Prices of LPG and Petroleum Products

1436. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hike prices of LPG and Petroleum products in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (domestic) and SKO (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-01 & 2001-02 respectively. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year

2002 onwards. It was also decided that henceforth the prices of HSD would be on import parity basis. Accordingly the ex-storage point price of HSD has been revised as under:

Effective dates	Ex-Storage point price (excluding excise duty etc.) Rs./KL
07.11.97	7918.04
25.12.97	7996.84
01.03.98	8939.24
04.04.98	7645.47
20.05.98	7536.89

Purchase of Paddy from Punjab

1437. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have purchased/proposed to purchase damaged paddy stock from Punjab;

(b) whether over two million tonnes of unsold paddy is already lying with the FCI;

(c) if so, the quantity of paddy with value thereof purchased/proposed to be purchased from Punjab; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to dispose off the damage stock of paddy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No Sir. Paddy conforming to prescribed specifications are procured by the public procuring agencies under minimum support price scheme. However, following unseasonal rains in Punjab during October, 1998 the Government of India relaxed the specification of paddy for Kharif Marketing Season 1998-99 w.e.f. 27.10.98 to mitigate the sufferings of farmers of Punjab on account of unseasonal rains. The revised specification of paddy applicable for procurement after 27.10.98 are as under:

"Paddy stocks can be procured with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains all put together upto a maximum limit of 8%".