

reduced to 15 percent from 25 percent in order to augment the total availability of these items. Export of onions has been banned. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, palmolein and kerosene are also supplied through the outlets of public distribution system at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders, black marketeers and other indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments.

Delicensing of Sugar Industry

1536. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

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

(a) the objectives and reasons to delicense the sugar industry;

(b) the reaction of the Indian Sugar Mill Association/ National Federation of sugar mills; and

(c) the quantum of sugarcane that was uncrushed during the last three years due to non-availability of crushing and processing capacity of sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Government decided to delicense the sugar industry with the object to allow greater freedom to the entrepreneurs to take investment and technology decision in the industrial sector which would contribute to greater industrial growth.

(b) Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) have not represented to the Government against the decision of the Government to delicense the sugar industry. However, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. (NFCSF) has opposed delicensing of sugar industry in the Presidential address at the 30th Annual Meeting of their General Body Meeting held on 23.10.98.

(c) As per the information received from the Government of Maharashtra, 13.68 lakh tonnes of cane remained uncrushed in the sugar season 1995-96 for which the State Government compensated the concerned farmers @ Rs. 5,000/- per acre. No such incidence was reported by any other State during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98.

[Translation]

Talks with Naga Leaders

1537. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a talk was held between the Naga extremist leaders and the Prime Minister in America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the points discussed and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Inquiry in Panna Mukta Mines

1538. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Court has given any directions in the case of inquiry in Mukta-Panna mines;

(b) whether the Government have violated the rules and offered the said mine to Reliance and IRCON jointly on lease for 25 years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The subject matter is presently subjudice.

[English]

Inclusion of Bhandari Communities in O.B.C. List

1539. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central OBC commission has recommended Bhandari and other communities to be included in the Central OBC list;

(b) whether listed Bhandari community was included in the Mandal Commission report; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Bhandari caste/community appears in the Central List of OBCs in respect of the State of Karnataka at serial no. 165 along with other castes under the heading of "NAYINDA". This caste was also included in the Mandal Commission report and the State list of OBCs. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has also sent an advice recommending inclusion of the Bhandari caste/community as a separate entry in the OBC list of Karnataka. The advice of the NCBC is presently under consideration.

Maharashtra Model of Tribal Development

1540. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Model of Tribal Development has been adopted in all the State;

(b) if not, the States where Maharashtra Model of Tribal Development has been adopted;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the defaulting States;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to earmark separate enhanced plan ceiling for Tribal Area Development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Maharashtra Model of Tribal Development has been adopted in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tripura and Daman & Diu.

(c) Most of the remaining States/UTs have informed that they are in the process of adopting certain features of Maharashtra Model. The States/UTs are being impressed upon, through letters to the Chief Ministers and in the meetings of the Tribal/Social Welfare Secretaries to adopt this Model. Efforts will be continued.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Child Labour

1541. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference between the child labour and child apprentice;

(b) if so, the manner in which they are categorised;

(c) the scheme formulated by the Government for the development of working children in the country; and

(d) the number of times the schemes introduced for child labourers have been reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No differentiation has been specifically made between child labour and child apprentices under the Apprentices Act, 1961 and Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. However, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for the prohibition of employment of children in certain occupations and processes.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes, namely National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) and Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations. Under the scheme of NCLP, funds are released to the Project societies at the district level which run special schools with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned for the coverage of 1.5 lakh children.

Under the Grant-in-aid scheme, funds are released to the NGOs for taking up action oriented projects for the rehabilitation of child labour. 64 voluntary organisations were extended financial assistance under the scheme during 1997-98.

(d) Periodical reviews by the Central and State Governments are being carried out regularly to monitor the projects launched under the schemes for the child labourers.

[English]

Unemployed Disabled Persons

1542. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: