

(b) the production of rice and wheat three years before 1997-98 alongwith the data regarding production of wheat and rice this year;

(c) the reasons for decline in the production of wheat;

(d) whether keeping in view the decline in the production of wheat it is being imported; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The agriculture production as well as production of wheat during 1997-98 is likely to be lower than the last year's record production. However, wheat production would be higher than any other previous years.

(b) The estimates of production of rice and wheat for the year 1994-95 to 1997-98 are given below :

Year	(Production in million tonnes)	
	Rice	Wheat
1994-95	81.8	65.8
1995-96	77.0	62.1
1996-97	81.3	69.3
1997-98 (Likely)	83.5	66.4

(c) The marginal fall in production of wheat is due to incessant and heavy rains in major wheat growing States during November and December, due to which the sowings got delayed and the crop growth was affected adversely.

(d) and (e) After reviewing the wheat production during 1997-98 (Rabi season), the Government had decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1998-99. The STC has been authorised to take steps to import wheat on behalf of the FCI. Accordingly, the STC has finalised contracts for import of 1.5 million tonnes of wheat from Australia during 1998-99. It has been decided not to import the balance quantity of 0.5 million tonnes at present.

#### G-15 Conference

24. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's proposal regarding terrorism has been widely supported in the G-15 Conference;

(b) the countries which have supported and also of those who have opposed this proposal; and

(c) the details of the proposals submitted by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) At the Eighth G-15 Summit in Cairo the subject of 'Terrorism' was discussed at India's initiative. The Summit

strongly condemned all kinds of terrorism, their perpetrators and all those who support them under whatever guise, and called for enhanced international cooperation to prevent and combat this menace.

(b) All the countries participating in the Summit supported India's proposal;

(c) India called upon G-15 to work together to mobilise international cooperation and practical global action to defeat the designs of international terrorism.

[English]

#### Retired Officers in Service

26. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have re-employed some retired Government officers even after two/three years of their retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to dispense with their services?

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) Yes. The rules clearly provide that Government servants will retire on attaining the prescribed age of retirement. However, they can be retained in service, in public interest, in accordance with instructions relating to grant of extension in service/re-employment or appointment on contract basis. Each case is decided on its merits but the primary factor is public interest.

(b) This information is not monitored centrally.

(c) The basic reason for their retention, in any capacity, beyond the age of superannuation is public interest. Their services are dispensed with as and when the purpose for which they are retained is fulfilled. The services of all of them can not be dispensed with one stroke as public interest is to be kept in mind while taking any decision.

#### Central Assistance to States

28. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central assistance to States is proposed to be stepped up during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is higher in comparison to the Eighth Five Year Plan; and