

level in next 5-10 years. The programme is weak in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

The outcomes of Family Welfare Programmes are determined by a number of factors e.g. (i) infrastructure and resources available for the programme, (ii) publicly stated support of opinion leaders and support in the community, (iii) efficiency of the State Health System and accountability of health functionaries, (iv) educational status of families particularly of women, women status in society and economic status of families.

In the States where the programme is weak, the above mentioned facilitating factors are also weak.

The Family Welfare is 100% Centrally Funded Programme. The Government has lately given high priority to the programme and allocation of resources has been increased from Rs. 1547 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 2489.35 crores in 1998-99. The progress of programme is being reviewed with the State Governments periodically and the State Governments are pressed to remove in implementation where these exists.

Liberalisation of Petroleum Industry

*227. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce a new package for further liberalisation of the petroleum industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (c) Pursuant to Government's decision announced in September, 1997 the dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism commenced on 1.4.1998. The reforms are phased for completion by 2002. Government have also announced the New Exploration Licensing Policy to encourage oil and gas exploration.

[English]

Insurgent Activities

*228. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which are mostly affected by insurgent activities in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government have reviewed the law and order and insurgency situation in North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) if so, the prevailing situation in those States;

(d) whether Bhutan is a Centre of terrorist activities;

(e) if so, the initiative taken for checking such activities;

(f) whether a new action plan has been formulated to bring back normalcy in those States;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove unemployment and bring the insurgent groups in the national mainstream including the steps connected with providing an economic package in the insurgency affected States?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The states most affected by insurgency and militancy are Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and (c) The law and order and insurgency situation in these States is constantly reviewed by the Government. There has been a significant improvement in the situation in Nagaland and hill areas of Manipur due to the Cease Fire between the Government of India and the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

There has also been a significant improvement in the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in the valley, due to sustained pressure, vigil and concerted actions of security forces and the States administration.

(d) and (e) There are reports that ULFA and Bodo militants have camps/hideouts in Bhutan. The matter has been taken up with the Royal Government of Bhutan through diplomatic channels. The security at the border has also been strengthened.

(f) and (g) Insurgency in the North East has never been looked upon only as a law and order problem. The development and deepening of democratic processes has been the basic framework within which the problems of the North East have been approached. Development strategy since Independence has been pursued within the broad framework of planning with a view to ensure that people develop along the lines of their own genius and

nothing should be imposed on them and that traditional way of life and culture are encouraged. The efforts should be to train and build indigenous teams to do the work of administration and development and that development should come through indigenous social and cultural institutions as far as possible.

The strategy to curb insurgency in the North East includes a willingness to meet and discuss legitimate grievances; resolve that violence would not be tolerated friendly relations with neighbouring countries; accelerated infrastructural development; stress on employment schemes; and good governance and decentralisation.

A multipronged approach has been adopted to tackle the militancy problem sponsored from across the border in J & K, which includes, inter alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by pro-active action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising the development programmes, deepening the democratic process, etc.

The State Governments have formulated their own Action Plans to fight insurgency. The Union Government monitors, co-ordinates and reinforces these Plans. The steps taken by the Central Government to curb insurgency include, inter alia, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and the Army, improved co-ordination and sharing of intelligence, modernisation/upgradation of State Police Forces, declaration of the most seriously affected areas as disturbed areas and notification of the major insurgent groups as unlawful associations. There is also a scheme under operation to meet security related expenditure of insurgency affected States by the Centre. The entire insurgency situation is kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time.

(h) A High-Level expert committee was constituted for creation of employment opportunities for educated unemployed in the North-eastern region of the country. The Committee submitted its report on 7th May, 1997. Meetings were held in Planning Commission to devise mechanisms for operationalisation of the report. Recommendations made were incorporated in the form of a New Industrial Policy, which has been approved by the Cabinet. The New Industrial Policy is expected to remove unemployment and bring the insurgent groups in the national mainstream.

The implementation of the economic package announced by the Prime Minister for the North Eastern States is constantly reviewed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office.

The issue of providing employment to J & K youths has been receiving attention of the Government for quite some time. Special recruitment drives has been undertaken in the past as a result of which more than twelve thousand youths have been employed. The age limit for Government employment has been extended by 5 years for the youths of J & K. Apart from Government employ-

ment, the apex bodies of private sector organisations like CII and FICCI have been approached to provide jobs to youths from J & K on a preferential basis in private sectors.

Allocation of Essential Commodities

*229. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

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

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils and kerosene supplied to each State/UT during 1998 till date;

(b) the actual demand of these commodities and allocation made to each State during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether requests for enhancing the quota of these commodities have been received from the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the quantity of these commodities released to flood affected areas during the said period separately, State-wise;

(f) the requirement consumption of these commodities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(g) whether the North-Eastern States have been left out so far as foodgrains are concerned for the last six months; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (d) The details regarding quantum of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils and kerosene allocated to each State/Union Territory under the Public Distribution System (PDS) as well as the actual offtake during 1998 till date are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Demand for these commodities, which are subsidised, is generally higher and requests are received from the States/Union Territories for enhancing their quota. It is not always possible to meet fully such demands on account of constraints of availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved.

(e) The details of quantity of these commodities released to flood affected areas during 1998 State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) The details of allocation and offtake of these commodities during each of the last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statements III, IV and V.

(g) No. Sir.

(h) Does not arise.