

[English]

**Demand and Availability of Essential Items**

2529. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) the annual average domestic availability and demand for potato, pulses, onion, oilseeds, fruits, vegetable during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government have been meeting the gap between demand and supply;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap; and

(d) whether the Government propose to ban the export of these commodities to ensure the availability of these items in the market at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Year-wise precise estimates of demand in respect of potatoes, onion, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables and pulses are not available. However, as per the tentative estimates, the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils is around 13 lakh tonnes and those of pulses is over 20 lakh tonnes per annum.

(b) to (d) Government has banned the export of onion and put the import of edible oils and pulses under Open General Licence (OGL). The import duty on pulses and onion has been abolished and in respect of edible oils the duty has been reduced from 25% to 15%. Import of selected edible oilseeds has been allowed. Besides, the production of edible oilseeds has increased in the country, during the last few years and efforts are being made to step up the production of pulses and potatoes.

**Bomb Blast by People's War Group**

2530. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons including policemen were killed in a major time bomb blast triggered by the outlawed People's War Group in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons including policemen killed;

(c) whether the ISI activities in Andhra Pradesh have been increasing for the last one month; and

(d) if so, the details of help and assistance provided to the Andhra Pradesh to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 13 persons, including 10 policemen lost their lives.

(c) No reports suggestive of increase in ISI activities in Andhra Pradesh during the last one month have come to notice.

(d) Ministry of Home Affairs have released the following funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount released
1996-97	709.560
1997-98	1209.560
1998-99	104.780

Apart from above, adequate number of companies of Central Para Military Forces and modern weapons have been provided to the State for deployment in Nazalite affected areas.

[Translation]

**LPG Coupons to MPs**

2531. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN :

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) the time upto which the ban has been imposed on releasing LPG gas coupons being given to MPs, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the new suggestions worked out by the Government to stop bungling in issuing coupons to MPs; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to vacate the stay and restore their privilege?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The stay made by the Honourable High Court of Kerala in W.P. No. 11507 of 1998 on issue of LPG connections by the Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) has been vacated by the Court by its order dated 10.12.98. Accordingly instructions have been issued by the Govt. for starting the distribution of LPG Coupon Books to Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from 14.12.1998.

As per the order of the court, the MPs can issue LPG connections subject to the following guidelines:

1. The beneficiary should be a resident of the Constituency of the MP.
2. The person should be in urgent need of an LPG connection.
3. His name should be registered in the Waiting List with an LPG Distributor.
4. LPG supplied should be used only for domestic purpose.

#### Maintenance of Gole Market Park

2532. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the parks located between the Government quarters in Gole Market area in New Delhi are not properly maintained in spite of lodging complaints by the habitants regularly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such complaints received by New Delhi Municipal Council so far; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The parks in question are maintained by the Central Public Works Department, which has reported that, within the existing financial constraints, the lawns between the Government quarters in the area are being maintained properly.

(c) and (d) The Central Public Works Department had received three requests from the local Residents Welfare Association on which the following action has been taken:

- (i) The financial sanction for an amount of Rs. 73800/- for re-development of one of the parks between Block No. 18 and 42 and provision of a separate water tank in Sector-2, Gole Market, has been obtained;
- (ii) Another park between Block No. 18 and 42 has since been re-developed; and
- (iii) It is envisaged to develop one Model Park in Gole Market area subject to the approval of the competent Authority.

[English]

#### Artificial Limbs For Disabled

2533. SHRI K. PARY MOHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring in new technology and making lighter and user friendly artificial appliances for the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to introduce liberal and soft loan schemes to encourage new manufacturers of artificial limbs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(i) Fabrication of composite plastic based Floor Reaction Orthosis(FRO): Such appliance have been developed by Composite Product Development Centre, Hyderabad, and are presently under field trials. The mass manufacturing of such appliances is scheduled to be taken up in Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of this Ministry, after successful completion of field trials.

(ii) ALIMCO has also taken up a Project of Development and manufacture of light weight polypropylene based Lower Limb Prosthesis based on ICRC (International Committee of Red Cross) technology.

(iii) ALIMCO also manufactures and supplies Braille Slate for the visually handicapped which is manufactured out of light weight ABS material (plastic).

(c) and (d) Yes. Loan assistance upto a maximum amount of Rs. 25 lakhs is provided for setting up small scale industries for manufacturing aids and appliances under R & D programmes of Government/Academic Institutions of Repute for Disabled within the country which employ the disabled persons. This assistance would be provided by the National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.

[Translation]

#### Review of Working of Intelligence Agencies

2534. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: