

(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

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the State economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised. Hence the projected amount of Central Assistance to be provided to the States during the Ninth Plan period is not yet determined.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Regional Passport Offices

29. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of pending applications have increased in the various Regional Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the number of pending applications at present in each of these offices; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to clear all these pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A detailed statement showing the number of passport applications pending in various passport offices of the country beyond one month from the date of application, as on April 30, 1998 which is the latest date for which such figures are available, is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are computerization of processing procedures, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases etc.

Statement

Regional Passport Offices

S.No.	Passport Office at	Application pending over one month as on 30.04.98
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	5632
2.	Bangalore	4488
3.	Bareilly	11950

1	2	3
4.	Bhopal	1765
5.	Bhubneshwar	3302
6.	Calcutta	803
7.	Chandigarh	10210
8.	Chennai	15838
9.	Cochin	1288
10.	Delhi	26900
11.	Ghaziabad	3543
12.	Goa	144
13.	Guwahati	1699
14.	Hyderabad	3277
15.	Jaipur	11199
16.	Jalandhar	16164
17.	Kozhikode	13985
18.	Lucknow	20308
19.	Mumbai	5953
20.	Nagpur	251
21.	Patna	2954
22.	Thane	226
23.	Trichy	20634
24.	Trivandrum	3300
25.	Jammu	7784
26.	Srinagar	43717
27.	Vishakapatnam	5366

Delhi Milk Scheme

30. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have transferred the Delhi Milk Scheme to the Delhi State Government; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the terms and conditions laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRISOMPAL) : (a) The decision to transfer Delhi Milk Scheme to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi was taken in the meeting of the Union Cabinet on 24.6.97. The Ministry of Home Affairs informed