

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) During the period of last three years i.e. 1995 to 1998 (upto 30.11.98), a total of 6 cases were registered by the CBI under official Secret Act, 1923 for investigation.

(b) Out of the above, investigation has been finalised in three cases and the remaining three are still under investigation. Out of three cases finalised, in one case charge sheet has been filed in the Court of Law, while in another, such action as deemed appropriate by the Department has been recommended. The third case has been closed for want of sufficient evidence.

(c) and (d) The issue relating to amendments to officials Secrets Act, 1923 is clubbed with formulation of Right to information Bill, which is under consideration of the Govt.

#### Shortage of Storage For Paddy

2623. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has been purchasing paddy from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India has been facing difficulty for storing it due to shortage of storage capacity; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to have proper storage capacity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) FCI procures paddy in Andhra Pradesh price support scheme. 124 paddy purchase centres have been set up so far for procurement of paddy. However, there has been no arrival of paddy till 9.12.98 as the prevailing market prices of paddy in the State are ruling much higher than the Minimum Support Price.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c). It is, however, stated that generally paddy procured in Andhra Pradesh is kept in CAP (Cover and Plinth) storage.

[Translation]

#### Welfare Schemes

2624. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FAITMI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the Government of Bihar for all types of welfare schemes during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount utilised out of the total allocated amount; and

(c) the manner in which the unutilised amount is likely to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The amounts released to the Government of Bihar during the last three years is as follows:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	1248.80
1996-97	7205.89
1997-98	3923.98

(b) Full details regarding utilisation of amounts released have not become available.

(c) Utilised balances of earlier years are adjusted against releases due in subsequent years.

[English]

#### Exemption of Tax on Sugarcane

2625. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar Cooperative Societies in Maharashtra are being asked to pay income tax on the price of sugarcane being paid to growers which is an excess of Statutory minimum sugarcane price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor when Supreme Court rejected the taxation demand by the Government in 1973;

(c) whether the Government propose to exempt agricultural goods under section 80P of Income Tax Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) In the Income Tax assessments of some sugar cooperative societies in Maharashtra, claim for deduction on account of excess price of sugarcane over the statutory minimum price, paid to sugarcane growers and members has been disallowed.

(c) and (d) The income of a cooperative society engaged in the marketing of the agricultural produce of its members is already allowed deduction in computing the taxable income under Section 80P of the Income Tax Act.