

NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Film Certification has been reconstituted w.e.f. 9.10.1998. Apart from Ms. Asha Parekh, Chairperson, the Board has the following members:—

1. Ms. Saroja Devi
2. Ms. Jayanti
3. Dr. A.R. Shreedhar
4. Ms. Arundhati Mukherji
5. Sh. Tapas Pal
6. Ms. Janaki Shavakarn
7. Sh. R. Seurirajan
8. Smt. Sabitha Radhakrishna
9. Sh. R.S. Manohar
10. Ms. Binapani Mohanty
11. Dr. Ananta Mohapatra
12. Sh. Hamen Das
13. Ms. G. Sarala Kumari
14. Ms. S. Janaki
15. Sh. Sitaram Shastri
16. Sh. K.Y.N. Patanjali
17. Ms. Namita Shankar
18. Ms. Sulabha Deshpande
19. Ms. Snehlata Deshmukh
20. Sh. Vinod Sharma
21. Sh. Arvind Trivedi
22. Smt. Chitra Mudgil
23. Sh. Ramakant Goswami
24. Ms. Leela Lathif
25. Sh. Rosscote Krishna Pillai

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance to Onion Growers

2920. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Onion farmer on road to destruction" appearing in "Indian Express" dated November 26, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide assistance to the farmers producing onions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been indicated that due to unseasonal rain there is 30–40% loss to the Kharif onion and the rate of onion seed has gone upto Rs. 1000/- per Kg. in Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) The steps taken by the Government of India to increase the production of onion and onion seed during current year are:—

(i) The mass spray campaign in farmers fields by NAFED through National Horticultural Research & Development Foundation (NHRDF) has been launched to protect the crop from attack of pests and diseases and increase production in Maharashtra State.

(ii) Government of India is implementing Central Sector Scheme on Production & Supply of Vegetable Seeds' under which highly subsidised vegetable seed kits are being distributed among the farmers. These kits include the seeds of onion also covering the affected areas of Maharashtra.

Production of Pulses

2921. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual production of pulses has remained stagnant around 120–140 lakh tonnes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the quantity of pulses imported during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The annual production of pulses in the country during the last three years is given below:

1995-96	123.10 lakh tonnes
1996-97	144.60 lakh tonnes
1997-98	133.50 lakh tonnes

(b) The reasons for low increasing of pulse production include:

- (i) Cultivation of pulses in less remunerative than that of cereals such as wheat, rice and oilseeds or of other commercial crops. The farmers, therefore, divert the better lands and resources for the cultivation of latter.
- (ii) Pulses are raised under rainfed conditions on marginal and sub-marginal lands, which are poor in fertility.
- (iii) The varieties available at present are susceptible to a number of diseases like yellow mosaic and powdery mildew in moong, urad and cowpea, sterility mosaic in arhar and wilt and blight in gram, reducing the yield; they are also vulnerable to termites and susceptible to pests.
- (iv) No major break-through has been achieved in pulses production technology and improvement of high yielding germ plasm. The varieties evolved in pulses have got narrow adaptability and, therefore, the farmer has to manage within the limited range to varieties for different seasons and agro-climatic situations.
- (v) The production of pulses in the off seasons that is summer/rabi is affected by stray cattle and Blue Bull, which damage pulse crops such as arhar, moong and urad more than any other crop.

(c) The quantity of pulses imported during the last three years is given below:

1995-96	4.91 lakh tonnes
1996-97	6.54 lakh tonnes
1997-98	6.59 lakh tonnes

(d) In order to increase the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 26 States/UTs. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minkits, rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, PP equipments, etc. Besides field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology.

Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

2922. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to review the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government of Sri Lanka thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

STD/ISD/PCOs in Tamil Nadu

2923. SHRI K. KRISHNA MOORTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of STD/ISD and Public Telephone Booths working in Tamil Nadu at present; district-wise;
- (b) the number of applications lying pending for the allocation of said booths in the State; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):