

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned " Pak producing Plutonium" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 19, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to raise the matching capability in the country and the Government's reaction to the 50-70 MW Khushab reactor having gone critical?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of reports that Pakistan has constructed a 50 MW reactor at Khushab.

(c) Government has been closely monitoring and continuously assessing the nuclear capability of Pakistan. India has a large, diversified and advanced nuclear programme geared to meeting India's developmental and security challenges.

Pay Scales of JAOS/JTOS

4033. SHRI UPENDRANATH NAYAK :

SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has approved the report of Fast Track Committee regarding pay scales alongwith recruitment rules of Junior Accounts Officers and Junior Telephone Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the Fast Track Committee which were not accepted?

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) to (c) : The Fast-track Committee recommended that the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission granting higher pay scale to JTOs should be accepted subject to upgrading the entry qualification and that the service conditions of JAOs should not be linked to JTOs. The recommendation of the Fast-track Committee has been accepted by the Cabinet.

Expert Committee

4034. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Committee to give suggestions for increasing the Agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the said committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since started its work; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d): No, Sir.

[Translation]

Fund For Basic Needs

4035. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to be state :

(a) the details of minimum basic needs programme announced by the Government;

(b) whether the Government have estimated the required amount to implement the programme for creating basic needs during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise; and

(d) the amount released for the purpose to each State for the current year, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme was launched in 1996 as the outcome of the Chief Ministers Conference of July 1996 which adopted the following objectives for the BMS programme with an all out effort for their attainment within a specified time frame.

1. 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in Rural and Urban areas.
2. 100 per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in Rural and Urban areas.
3. Universalisation of Primary Education.
4. Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
5. Supplementary Nutrition via Extension of

Mid-day Meal Programme in Primary Schools to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections and supplementary nutrition programme implemented as part of ICDS.

6. Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
7. Streamlining of the Public Distribution System with a focus on the poor.

The BMS Programme replaced the erstwhile Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). While the MNP was largely for the rural areas of the Country, the BMS seeks to provide a network of facilities for social consumption in both urban and rural areas of country.

The provisions of funds for BMS is primarily a part of the Plans of the State and Union Territories (UTs). However, in some critical areas, Centrally Sponsored Schemes were introduced in order to provide additional resources to supplement the resources of the States. In addition, to ensure that adequate investment are made in the above mentioned BMS sectors, since 1996-97 the Planning Commission too provides Additional Central Assistance (ACA) exclusively for BMS to States /UTs. The total BMS outlay of the States /UTs is earmarked in the Annual Plan of the States /UTs so that no diversion to non-BMS sectors is possible. The implementation of the BMS Programme rests entirely with the States and UTs.

(b) and (c) Special Action Plans have been drawn up for the Ninth Plan for the BMS sectors of Safe Drinking Water, Primary Health Care, Primary Education, Housing for the Shelterless Poor, and Rural Connectivity with the objective of addressing the problem areas and filling the critical gaps in infrastructures in these sectors on a priority basis for timebound achievement of the objective of full coverage in the country. While it is recognised that the total quantum of funds required for bridging the BMS infrastructure gaps would be very large, a great deal of effort is necessary to pool in resources from all sources, namely, the Central Government, State Government, Local Bodies, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as well as Externally Aided Projects. No aggregate/ sector-wise requirement of funds for the BMS Programme has been drawn up by the Planning Commission.

(d) The allocation of ACA for BMS made to the States and UTs is for the BMS programme as a whole and is not allocated to any specific BMS sector or sectors in particular. States and UTs have been accorded full flexibility to make their own inter se allocation of ACA funds among the various BMS sectors depending on their own priorities.

In 1996-97, the Centre allocated Rs. 2244 crore as ACA for BMS to States and UTs which was increased to Rs. 2970 crore in 1997-98 and further enhanced to Rs.3410

crore in 1998-99. The Statewise allocations so far made are shown in the enclosed Statement. The release of ACA for BMS to the States/UTs is being made on a monthly basis in twelve monthly equal instalments.

Statement

Allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Basic Minimum Services (BMS) in 1998-99

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl No.	State	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) 1998-99
1	2	3
NON SPECIAL CATEGORY STATE		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17961.00
2.	Bihar	38332.00
3.	Goa	363.00
4.	Gujarat	7642.00
5.	Haryana	5009.00
6.	Karnataka	10468.00
7.	Kerala	10285.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	23610.00
9.	Maharashtra	15922.00
10.	Orissa	16425.00
11.	Punjab	2694.00
12.	Rajasthan	14001.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	14113.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	50099.00
15.	West Bengal	21433.00
(A)	Sub Total	248357.00
SPECIAL CATEGORY STATE		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	9047.00
2.	Assam	17246.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	10482.00
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	16480.00
5.	Manipur	6430.00
6.	Meghalaya	3899.00
7.	Mizoram	4182.00

1	2	3
8.	Nagaland	4951.00
9.	Sikkim	4725.00
10.	Tripura	5537.00
(B) Sub Total		82979.00
UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	NCT of Delhi	1495.00
2.	Pondicherry	745.00
3.	A & N Islands	1717.00
4.	Chandigarh	618.00
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	180.00
6.	Lakshadweep	239.00
7.	Daman & Diu	143.00
(C) Sub Total		5137.00
Grand Total		336473.00*

* Out of a Budgetary Provision of Rs. 3410 crore as ACA for BMS in 1998-99 Rs. 3364.73 crore has been allocated to State and UTs in 1998-99. Outstanding dues to three States for BMS in 1997-98 amounting to Rs. 2217 crore have also been disbursed from this amount. The balance unallocated amount of Rs. 23.1 crore will be distributed in the course of the year.

[English]

Liquor Factories

4036. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumption of various type of liquor have marked sharp increase during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the types of liquor factories functioning in the country alongwith distillation and sale during the above period, State-wise;

(d) the details of the new licences issued during the last three years as also in the current year;

(e) whether a large number of licences for extraction and sale of various type of alcohols have been issued in Jammu areas ignoring the basic policy; and

(f) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Immigration Racket

4037. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Major Indian immigration racket busted by US Government' appearing in Times of India on November 22, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts reported in the news-item;

(c) the number of illegal Indians residing in US; and

(d) the number of persons arrested so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item is based on information contained in a News release dated November 20, 1998 of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service of the US Government.

(c) No precise figures are available of the number of Indian nationals who may be residing illegally in the US.

(d) 21 persons have been arrested in this connection until November 20, 1998.

[Translation]

Production of Fruits and Vegetables

4038. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India occupies first and second place in the World in production of fruits and vegetables respectively;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and the names of countries which produces more fruits and vegetables than India;