

(c) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have represented for increase in their poverty lines on the ground that the consumer price index for their states reflects the effect of subsidies to foodgrains. Orissa has represented for increase in its poverty line.

(d) The poverty lines are worked out on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, which after considering alternative methods of computing poverty line, recommended use of state specific poverty lines. The state specific poverty line are obtained by desegregating the national level poverty line by state specific price indices and inter-state price differential. These state-specific poverty lines reflect the cost of the consumption basket considered to be the minimum for healthy living, at prices prevailing in the state, and hence depicts a true picture.

Employees of N.S.S.O.

2170. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation regarding extension of benefits granted by the Honourable Supreme Court/CAT in its orders to similarly placed employees (non-petitioners) of NSSO(DPD), Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation have been received;

(b) if so, whether the request of the non-petitioners has been acceded to; and

(c) if not, the reasons for refusal despite the Hon'ble Supreme Court's observation that non-petitioners should be placed on the same footing with petitioners in case of any dispute and as such petitioners should not be placed at a comparative advantage and also similar recommendations from the Fifth Pay Commission?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet.

(c) As per the Policy of the Government, in general, the judgment of the CAT/Court is applicable in respect of applicants only unless and otherwise directed by the CAT/Court. In the Data Processing Division of National Sample Survey Organisation the benefit of higher scale has been given to the applicants only as there was no specific

directions by the Hon'ble Court to extend the benefits to the non applicants. The Government has also not yet taken any decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission for extension of benefit of judgements given by different Courts to the non petitioners.

Construction of Dam

2171. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dam is being constructed across the river Baitrani (Kanapur Project) in the district of Keonjhar;

(b) if so, the details of progress made in construction of the dam; and

(c) the time by which the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) An expenditure of about Rs. 16.71 crores has been incurred upto March, 1998 against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 318.19 crores on Kanapur Project.

(b) and (c) The Headworks are likely to be completed during IXth Plan and the balance work will spill over to Xth Plan.

[Translation]

Co-operation in Agricultural Sector

2172. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has agreed to assist India in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (d) No formal Agreement has been signed between

the two countries for cooperation in the Agricultural sector. However, during the visit of Iraqi Minister for Agriculture to India from 9th to 13th February, 1999 India agreed to provide short-term and long-term training/Master's and Ph.D courses in agriculture to the Iraqi students. Iraq has shown interest in importing some agriculture equipments and goods, soya meal for poultry feeding, first born pregnant cows and bulls, seeds of vegetables and other crops, pesticides, veterinary medicines and vaccines etc. from India.

Use of Indian Languages

2173. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether English is predominantly used in computer education in the country and other Indian languages are given lesser preference which may eventually result in their disappearance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of other languages in computer education?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH: (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics have already initiated activities in the area of Technology Development for Indian Languages with the following objectives:

- To develop information processing tools to facilitate human machine interaction, information processing in Indian languages and development of multilingual knowledge systems.
- To promote use of information processing tools for language studies and research.
- To support R&D efforts in the area of information processing in Indian languages covering machine translation, human machine interaction, language learning and natural language processing.

2. These activities have helped to offer solutions in Indian languages which *inter alia*, include Software products for various PC applications such as Word processing, Publishing, Spread Sheet, Spell checking, scripts processing, Machine Aided Translation between English and other Regional Languages etc.

[English]

Control on Nitrogenous Fertilizers

2174. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to decontrol nitrogenous fertilisers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production cost and selling price alongwith subsidies given on nitrogenous fertilisers in the country; and

(d) the production cost, selling price and subsidies granted on other varieties of fertilisers at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cost of production of urea varies from unit to unit and from time to time depending on the vintage of the plant, location, feedstock used, etc. The statutory sale price of urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer, is currently fixed at Rs. 4000/- per MT.. The difference between the cost of production including reasonable returns and the statutorily fixed selling price is paid as subsidy. Therefore the rate of subsidy on urea varies from unit to unit. The total amount of subsidy paid on other nitrogenous fertilizers.

(d) The cost of production of other fertilizers also varies from unit to unit. The Government gives a concession (subsidy) to the manufacturers and importers of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers and indicates their Maximum Retail Prices (MRP). The MRPs and the rates of concession currently in operation for various P&K fertilizers are indicated below:

Fertilisers	MRP (Rs. per MT)	Concession (Rs. per MT)
DAP (Indigenous)	8300	4400
DAP (Imported)	8300	3400
MOP	3700	3000
SSP	*	900
Complexes	6200-8000	2477-4071

*Fixed by respective State Governments.