

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to extend this facility to the remaining schools;

(d) whether any target has been fixed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) According to the guidelines issued by the Department of Education for central assistance under the NP-NSPE, it was envisaged that the Programme would cover in a phased manner all Government, local body and Government-aided Primary Schools in all States and UTs. On the basis of available information, the coverage of the programme has been gradually extended to 6.88 lakhs Primary Schools in these categories in 1998-99.

Demand/Supply of Pulses

2989. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply position of pulses during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the per capita availability of pulses at present;

(c) whether the Government have banned export of pulses; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD & CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The requirement of pulses at production level has been estimated at 15.3 million tonnes based on the normative requirement recommended by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and at 15.50 million tonnes based on behaviouristic approach of Gross Domestic Product growth rate of 7%. As against this, the production of pulses in the country during the last three years and the current year, has been as under:

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Production
1995-96	12.31
1996-97	14.25
1997-98	13.07
1998-99 (likely)	14.78

(b) The per capita net availability of pulses has been 12.1 kg. (Provisional) during 1998.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scientific and Technical Personnel

2990. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scientific and Technical Personnel at present in the country;

(b) the place of India in World ranking in terms of the total number of Scientific and Technical Personnel; and

(c) the countries that outnumber India in terms of Scientific and Technical Personnel?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to an estimate made by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), the country's stock of Scientific and Technical (S&T) Personnel at the beginning of 1997 was 6.54 million.

(b) and (c) International comparison of stock of S&T Personnel has limitations as the member countries of UNESCO adopt their own definitions, classifications of S&T Personnel while providing data to UNESCO and also the years of reference of data are not the same for different countries. These limitations make the international comparison unrealistic.

Institute for Handicap

2991. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any project report for establishment of an Institute for Research, Development and Training for providing aids and appliances to the physically handicapped persons in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of project; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI