

Government has claimed reimbursement during the last 3 years is as under:—

1996-97	Rs. 30.90 crores
1997-98	Rs. 24.17 crores
1998-99 (upto December 1998)	Rs. 28.20 crores

#### Price of Onion

3013. SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:  
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of onion has sharply fallen and the farmers are in great crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the decline of onion price;

(d) whether the Government have taken a decision to compensate the farmers facing crisis;

(e) whether the Government propose to fix minimum support price of onion like other agricultural commodities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The wholesale prices of onions have declined during the last three weeks at the producing centres due to arrivals of fresh crop. The estimated production of late kharif and rabi crops of onions is likely to be much higher as compared to those of last year.

(c) and (d) The Government has permitted the export of 1.50 lakh MTs of onions up to May, 99 to help the farmers to get reasonable prices for their produce.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

#### Contaminated Drinking Water

3014. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether drinking water of many States contain fluorine beyond permissible limit of 1.5 ppm leading to various ailments;

(b) if so, the details of study conducted in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A nation wide survey was conducted by the Ministry during 1991-93 to identify the status of water supply in the rural habitation and the validation survey was conducted during May-July, 1994. As per the information received from the States, currently, there are 32211 habitations affected by fluoride in 16 States of the country.

(c) Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject and States are to design water supply systems suited to the State, Government of India support the efforts of the State Governments both technically and financially through the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Powers to sanction projects relating to quality of water have since been delegated to the State Governments. However in the past, 427 Defluoridation plants have been installed for removal of excess fluoride from the drinking water. Government of India has also sanctioned 707 schemes designed to cover a population of 18.74 lakh spread over 4625 habitations in 9 States under the Submission programme. Five Pilot Projects have also been initiated in the States of Andhra Pradesh (3), Rajasthan (1) and Gujarat (1) wherein all the proven technologies are being tried out. State Governments have been advised to constitute State Level "Fluorosis Control Cells" aimed at organising large scale training, awareness generation and capacity building programme.

#### Import of Wheat

3015. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:  
SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat imported during each of the last three years alongwith the name of the countries, its price and foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the cost, per quintal of imported wheat;

(c) whether the Government propose to import wheat during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the quantum of wheat available with the FCI,

private traders, agriculturists and other agencies at present;

(f) whether the Government are taking a serious view with regard to stop import of agricultural produce; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of wheat imported during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Country	Qty. (in lakh Tonnes)	Price PMT (in US\$)	Foreign exchange spent
1996-97	Australia	13.90	148.00 156.00 FOB	) )
	Canada	2.66	152.50 FOB	)
	Argentina	0.95	173.00 C & F	) **
1997-98	Australia	2.43 7.75	153.40 FOB 152.65 FOB	) )
	Australia	14.15	142.50 FOB	)

\*\* The details of foreign exchange spent are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The landed cost per quintal of imported wheat is as under:

Year	Landed cost per quintal (Rupees)
1996-97 (P)	678.44
1997-98 (P)	774.04
1998-99 (P)	715.84
P—Provisional	

(c) No Sir. There is no proposal to import any additional quantity of wheat during the current financial year (1998-99).

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The stock position of wheat with FCI and State agencies as on 31.1.99 was as under:—

Commodity	Stock position		
	FCI	State Agencies	Total
Wheat	51.16	65.08	116.24

Government does not maintain separate estimates of the stocks of wheat maintained by Private traders, Agriculturists etc.

(f) and (g) Government constantly reviews the stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool *vis-a-vis* the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for Public Distribution System/other Welfare scheme, open market prices etc. and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool is comfortable at present and there is no proposal to import wheat and rice on Government account. Government is taking all possible measures to increase production of foodgrains in the country.

#### **Global Meet on Terrorism**

3016. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had, on the Human Rights Day, December 10, 1998, called for a global meet on terrorism for evolving a time-frame for dismantling weapons of mass destruction and combating terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the UN Commission on Human Rights or any other global players have responded to this call;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Question relating to terrorism and dismantling weapons of mass destruction in a time bound frame work are discussed with leaders of other countries in talks at home and abroad.

#### **Ban on Anti-National Outfits**

3017. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:  
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban anti-national outfits operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such outfits; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) From time to time the Government bans certain organisations after considering various aspects of their unlawful activities. It will not be in the public interest to disclose any such contemplated proposals.

[Translation]

#### **Assistance to Institute for Bio Product**

3018. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for seeking foreign assistance for the Institute for Bio products to the Union Government at Mahu (Indore);

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A scheme for creating Research and Development facilities in Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Mahu, Madhya Pradesh was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the year 1987. The Department of Biotechnology constituted a high level Expert Committee to recommend ways and means to upgrade the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Mahu. The committee submitted its report in December, 1989. The report of the Expert Committee was forwarded to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on December 8, 1989 for further action.

#### **Goa Liberation Movement**

3019. SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: