

(a) whether the Executive Council of Delhi University has the power to reduce or alter the reservation policy for SCs/STs in services as the same is provided in the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Executive Council is considering to reduce the reserved posts for SCs/STs candidates in Delhi University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) On the basis of information received from the University of Delhi, the Executive Council of the University of Delhi is not considering to reduce the reserved posts for SC/ST candidates in the University. Hence the question of the University taking a decision or exercising power in contravention of reservation policy does not arise.

Import of Sugar

3149. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the varieties of sugar imported and the countries from which import was made; and

(b) the details of the custom duty and FOB levied on each variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Import of sugar being on Open General Licence (OGL), various private parties are importing sugar as per their own commercial judgement. As per DGCIS-Calcutta, the Sugar is being imported from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, German F. Rep., Pakistan, Singapore, S. Africa, U. Arab E.M.T.S., U.K., U.S.A., Hongkong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea R.P., Myanmar, Mexico, Philippines, Saudi Arab, Thailand, Canada, Chinese Taipei, China P. R.P., Iran, Netherland and Sudan etc.

Government w.e.f. 28th April, 1998, imposed a basic custom duty of 5% and a countervailing duty of Rs 850 per tonne on imported sugar. The basic custom duty was increased from 5% to 20% w.e.f. 14.01.1999.

In the Union Budget for 1999-2000, the duty on imported sugar has further been increased from 20% to 27.5%.

[*Translation*]

Hike in Medicines Prices

3150. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Patent Kanoon, Ke Bad Davaiyon Ke Kemate Betahasha Badhengi" appearing in 'Jansatta', dated 21st January 1999;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the price in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The TRIPS Agreement does not prohibit the use of price control measures. Presently, India has opted for the transitional provisions as provided in the TRIPS Agreement which is applicable upto 31st December, 2004 and till that date, the product patent is not available in the country. Moreover, it is expected that at no point of time, more than 10% of medicines sold in the market would be covered by product patent. In almost all therapeutical categories, generic/non-patented alternatives will be available.

Golden Jubilee Year

3151. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started making preparation to celebrate Golden Jubilee Year of official language beginning from 14 September, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Hindi Advisory Committee has been constituted;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to implement the national language Hindi as official language in throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The matter regarding celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Official Language for one year, commencing from 14 September, 1999, is under consideration of the Government. No Committee has been constituted in this regard so far.

(d) and (e) According to Article 343(1) of the Constitution, Hindi is the Official Language of the Union. All orders relating to the Official Language are being implemented in Central Government offices, institutions etc. all over the country. However, the Government over the decades, has been making efforts to promote the use of Hindi with inspiration, encouragement and goodwill.

[English]

ISI

3152. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI moulds Jammu and Kashmir boys to take to weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these Kashmiri are being sent to Afghanistan for advance weapons training with the Taliban; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to combat ISIs activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the activities of Pakistan and its official agency (ISI) which has constantly used terrorism and covert action as an instrument of State Policy against India. It has recruited, trained, financed, armed and infiltrated terrorists into India.

(d) Government of India have constantly demanded that they should cease these activities forthwith, as also close down training camps in their territory.

A multi-pronged strategy has been implemented to tackle militancy in Jammu and Kashmir which includes strengthening of border management, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, countering militancy in the hinterland by pro-active actions, establishment of Village Defence Committees, improved coordination between different agencies, establishments of pickets at vulnerable locations and modernisation/upgradation of State Police force.

Literacy amongst SCs/STs

3153. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey regarding the percentage of literacy amongst Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe boys and girls in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide quality education to economically backward students and for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this regard?

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) Government have not made any specific survey regarding the percentage of literacy amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes boys and girls in different States. However, the State-wise percentage of literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country as per 1991 census is enclosed.

The specific steps being taken by the Government for the educational upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes include: Opening of Primary Schools on priority basis, development of instructional material in tribal languages at the initial stages, establishment of hostels, residential schools and Ashram Schools, Book Banks and Coching Classes, provision of Scholarships and freships and opening of Non Formal and Adult Education centres in SC/ST concentration areas on priority basis.