

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have suggested certain amendments in The Insecticides Act, 1968. These have been examined by a Committee in which the representatives of the States were also members. On the basis of recommendations of this Committee, amendments in The Insecticides Act, 1968 are under consideration.

Government of Andhra Pradesh have suggested certain amendments in The Seeds Act 1966. The Committee under Shri M.V. Rao has considered these in consultation with State Governments. The recommendations for amendment of The Seeds Act, 1966 are under consideration.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme

3265. SHRI NRIPEN GOUMAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study regarding effective implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Assam has been conducted by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Union Government to implement these schemes effectively?

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) No such study has so far been undertaken by the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) For effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments monitor and review the progress made, from time to time, in conjunction with the Planning Commission.

Fake Passports

3266. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Number of persons arrested during 1997-98 and 1998-99 with fake passport and for giving false statement for getting visa; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check these illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, since visas are processed and issued by the foreign Missions in India, the information is not available with the Government.

(b) As and when a person with fake passport is caught, legal action as per the provisions of the law is taken

by the concerned authorities and the passport is impounded/revoked.

Plan for Development of Backward area of Maharashtra

3267. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared an action plan for the development of most backward and poverty stricken areas of Maharashtra on the line of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of action being taken by the Government for the implementation of said action plan?

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) No, Sir. Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Central Assistance is allocated for Special Area Programme such as Western Ghats Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, etc. and various poverty alleviation schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Haj Pilgrims

3268. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total expenditure incurred on the Indian officials of Haj pilgrim duty performed during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to reduce such expenditure in the light of serious economic crisis faced by the country; and

(c) the total expenditure expected during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Expenditure incurred on Haj deputationists during the last three financial years is as follows :-

Year	Total Expenditure (in Rupees)
1995-96	1,64,95,182/-
1996-97	5,53,45,940/-
1997-98	5,87,92,045/-