

(d) the name of the country having the highest lowest yield of foodgrain per hectare alongwith the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The area under foodgrains in India is highest in the World. However, the yield is lower than the world average.

(d) As per the data available in FAO's Production Year Book-1997, France had the highest (6774 kg.) and Kazakistan the lowest (792 kg.) yield per hectare among the countries producing foodgrains including wheat and paddy etc. during the year 1997.

[English]

Attack on Indians

3285. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are increasing number of Indian nations who are falling victim to skin head attacks in Moscow and other Russian cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such attacks on Indian expatriates and students in Russia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no specific targeted threat to the Indian community in the Russian Federation. They face problems similar to those faced by other foreign nationals. In 1998, 14 such incidents on Indian nationals by some anti-social elements "skin-heads" had come to our notice. This year, no such incident has been reported.

(c) Our Embassy in Moscow and the Consulates General in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok have been regularly sensitising the Russian authorities, both at the federal and local levels, of our extreme concern at incidents affecting Indian nations. The Russian authorities have as a result taken various steps to prevent such incidents. Regular contacts have been maintained with the Indian community including businessmen, students, journalists etc. to reassure them. They have also been advised to take adequate precautions and to immediately report any incidents to the police authorities and keep the Embassy/Consulates General fully informed. The Indian community has been actively encouraged to register themselves and those of their families with our Missions /Posts to facilitate prompt and appropriate consular advice and assistance.

[Translation]

Remunerative Price of Agriculture Produce

3286. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce;

(b) if so, whether the Government would formulate any action plan for determining the remunerative price

of agricultural produce so that the agricultural production may increase and the farmers may get the remunerative price of their produce; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government announces each season minimum support prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The MSPs are declared on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors. The MSPs fixed by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also provide a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity.

[English]

Incomplete Central Projects

3287. SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The details of Central Projects which were not completed in their stipulated period of completion during the Eighth Five Year Plan in Maharashtra and Karnataka, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the total increase in the estimated cost of each of these incomplete projects;

(c) the additional amount likely to be spent on these projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the concrete steps taken for completion of these projects?

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) to (c) The details of central projects in the State of Karnataka and Maharashtra along with delays, cost increase and balance amount to be spent in the 9th Plan are given in the enclosed statement. One project namely Panvel-Karjal New line will be completed in the 10th Plan.

The reasons for delay vary from project to project. The reasons, generally, include: delay in land acquisition, delay in obtaining environmental and other clearances, inadequate funds, delay in award of contracts, delayed supply of equipment as also delay in civil works.

(d) The concrete steps taken for completion of those projects are as follows :